

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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Coach Dennis Erickson



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FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2005

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# Army Reserve chief says force becoming 'broken'

Memo warns policies hurt mission in Afghanistan, Iraq Page 5



## No vacancies for smokers

Army hotels phasing out smoking rooms as all lodgings prepare to go smoke-free by March 1

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CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MORGAN LOOSLI/Stars and Stripes

The Kelley Hotel on Kelley Barracks in Stuttgart, Germany, will phase out its smoking rooms by Jan. 31.



## STARS &amp; STRIPES

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## NewsTracker ... What's new with old news

## World

**U.S. Embassy bomb plot:** Two of six men accused of plotting to bomb the U.S. Embassy in Paris denied on Wednesday that they had links to an alleged al-Qaida leader.

Djamel Baghal, the plot's suspected ring-leader, and five other suspects went on trial this week on charges of criminal association with a terrorist enterprise. All six deny the charges.

**Ukraine election:** The Supreme Court on Thursday rejected losing presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich's appeal of last month's presidential revote.

The three-judge panel threw out his appeal, which alleged massive fraud and asked the court to invalidate voting in all of Ukraine's 225 electoral districts. The panel did not immediately explain its ruling.

The appeal was a bid to overturn the Central Election Commission's unanimous refusal last week to consider a similar complaint. Yanukovich, who still has one more chance to overturn the election results, has said openly he had little hope of success, but has vowed to fight on against the Dec. 26 vote, which preliminary results show Yushchenko winning.

**Romanian rock star death:** A U.S. Marine who left Romania after being involved in a Dec. 3 fatal auto accident in Bucharest while serving as a member of the U.S. Embassy security detail there, is still working at his battalion headquarters in Quantico, Va. The case is still under investigation, a Marine spokesman said.

Staff Sgt. Christopher R. VanGoethem, who was commander of the embassy's security detachment at the time, was taken out of Romania within a day after the accident that killed Teodii Peter, a popular Romanian musician.

The Romanian government asked the United States to waive VanGoethem's immunity and return him to Bucharest to be questioned.

But on Thursday, State Department spokesman Lou Funtir said it was premature to consider the request until the investigation by Naval Criminal Investigative Service is finished.

## War on terrorism

**Padilla trial challenge:** Attorneys defending an American accused of participating in an al-Qaida plot to set off a "dirty bomb" have issued a challenge to federal prosecutors: prove it or free him.

Jose Padilla's attorneys on Wednesday asked U.S. District Judge Henry Floyd to hear their writ of habeas corpus, a petition that allows a civilian judge to consider their case. Padilla was not present.

Padilla was arrested at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport in 2002 after returning from Pakistan. The federal government has said he received weapons and explosives



**Cause of derailments:** A charred freight car, with smoke rising from it, is towed out of the Howard Street tunnel on July 19, 2001, in Baltimore. A CSX freight train carrying hazardous material derailed in the tunnel a day earlier, causing billowing black smoke to fill the downtown area of the city. Poor record-keeping by Baltimore and CSX Corp. plus lack of communication between the city and the railroad aggravated a dangerous situation when the train derailed, the National Transportation Safety Board said Wednesday.

training members of al-Qaida.

## Business

**WorldCom lawsuit:** Ten former WorldCom board members have tentatively agreed to pay \$54 million, a third of it from their own pockets, to settle their portion of a lawsuit brought over the company's collapse, according to published reports Thursday.

The outside directors agreed in principle to pay \$18 million of their own money, with the remaining \$36 million to be paid by the directors' liability insurers, The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times reported. The class-action suit was brought by investors who lost billions when WorldCom went under in a multibillion-dollar accounting scandal.

**US Airways financial troubles:** A bankruptcy judge on Thursday canceled a collective bargaining agreement between US Airways and its machinists union, providing millions of dollars in annual savings that the airline says will prevent the need for im-

minent liquidation.

The termination of the contract with the International Association of Machinists would result in pay cuts for union workers ranging from 6 percent to 35 percent and the loss of thousands of union jobs.

## States

**N.H. murder case:** Pamela Smart, the key figure in New Hampshire's most publicized murder trial, is asking for a pardon.

Smart, 37, was convicted in 1991 of persuading her teenage lover and his friends to murder her husband. Four teens, including one who admitted pulling the trigger, testified against her in a trial that was televised live around the state, and prompted several books and a movie.

In a pardon request filed last week with the attorney general's office, Smart repeats her arguments that she didn't get a fair trial because of all the media attention and her sentence was too harsh.

**Spector trial transcripts:** A California appeals court has denied a request by attorneys for famed rock music producer Phil Spector to keep grand jury transcripts in his murder case sealed.

The 2nd District Court of Appeal in Los Angeles issued a one-line judgment Wednesday denying the petition and upholding a Superior Court judge's ruling in November that the transcripts should be released.

Superior Court Judge Larry Paul Fidler said Spector's lawyers failed to show how releasing the documents would prevent a fair jury from being chosen for the trial.

**Michael Jackson trial:** A comedy club owner who is a witness in the Michael Jackson molestation case held a news conference in Los Angeles to accuse the singer's defense team of harassing him.

As soon as he wrapped up his remarks Wednesday, he was served with a fresh defense subpoena.

Jamie Masada, who owns the Laugh Factory in Hollywood, introduced Jackson to the boy who is accusing the pop star of molestation. The boy had participated in Masada's comedy camp for underprivileged children and was battling cancer when Jackson met him at Masada's urging.

**Space station problems:** The space station crew is spending the new year dealing with an old problem: a broken oxygen generator.

The primary machine for producing oxygen aboard the international space station stopped working again Saturday. The cabin atmosphere was replenished Tuesday with oxygen from the supply ship that arrived on Christmas Day with much-needed food.

Cosmonaut Saliyudin Sharipov and astronaut Leroy Chiao spent most of Wednesday trying to fix the Russian-built oxygen generator. The latest problem appears to be similar to what crippled the system last year.

From staff and wire reports

## Clarification

A story in Thursday's edition about a V Corps Web site — [www.vcorp.army.mil/memory/memory.htm](http://www.vcorp.army.mil/memory/memory.htm) — contained inaccurate information. Mike Hurst is an employee at the Hohenfels, Germany-based, Northrop Grumman Information Technology.

## Correction

A story in Wednesday's edition about Department of Defense employees needing a Status of Forces Agreement stamp in their passports contained incorrect information. Civilians need to fill out Form AE 600-77A.

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# Lakenheath airmen deploying to Mideast

By RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — More than 1,000 airmen from the 48th Fighter Wing have begun deploying to support the ongoing international war on terror and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

F-15E Strike Eagles from the 494th Fighter Squadron are among those who will deploy, said Brig. Gen. Mark T. Matthews, the wing commander.

"January is the heavy month for deploying people out," Matthews said Thursday. "We started rotating people out in late December."

The deployed airmen will be stationed in Afghanistan, Iraq and throughout the Central Command area of responsibility, he said. CENTCOM covers 25 nations from the Horn of Africa to the Arabian Gulf region and into Central Asia.

Most of the Lakenheath airmen will be part of the four-month rotation cycle for air expeditionary forces, but some have orders for 179 days, he said.

Airmen who deploy longer are typically in higher demand fields, such as security forces, Air Force officials have said.

Up to 20,000 Air Force members deploy around the globe in each rotation cycle, according to the Air Force Web site.

The 48th's mission will be the typical Air Force fighter mission — providing air support for the troops on the ground.

Matthews said the Jan. 30 elections in Iraq would probably generate a lot of trouble from insurgents who oppose a democratic government. He said the area would remain "hot" for the time being.

The aircraft could be called upon to support ground offensives or provide an air-

borne weapon system for ambushed convoys or patrols.

At the same time, the wing is sending aircraft and about 100 people from the 493rd Fighter Squadron to Iceland to maintain an air presence for NATO in the North Atlantic, a mission the Air Force has performed for decades to support the island nation.

That deployment is also a normal four-month rotation.

"It's a big chunk of our hide," Matthews said of the departure of so many troops and aircraft. "There will be a noticeable dent in our footprint here."

The deployments will put a strain on troops who remain behind, Matthews said. They will work longer hours and do more tasks than normal.

However, he said, it is rare that all three squadrons are together at RAF Laken-

heath, where about 5,000 active-duty members are stationed.

"It puts a lot of stress on our people here," he said. "In fact, I worry more about our people here than our people deployed."

He said the heavy operations tempo facing the Air Force and the rest of the military requires the service learn how to operate garages with much of the population deployed.

"I think we're still learning as an Air Force how to do that," he said.

Organizations such as the Family Support Center and the 48th Medical Group, as well as commanders and senior enlisted leaders, will be on the watch for indicators of excessive stress, such as increases in driving under the influence of alcohol or domestic abuse, he said.

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## Fla. lawmakers make push to keep carrier

By LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Three Florida members of Congress announced legislation Wednesday to mandate that the Navy keep 12 aircraft carriers in its fleet, a move prompted by Pentagon proposals to decommission the Florida-based USS Kennedy to save money.

Sens. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., and Rep. Ander Crenshaw, R-Fla., criticized Pentagon officials for considering the proposal, which they say would jeopardize national security, as well as financially devastate northern Florida.

"We should be wise enough to recognize that at a time of war, our nation needs 12 carriers," Martinez said. "We all hope there could be such a time when we don't need this kind of defense, but it's not now."

Navy officials refused to comment on the legislation and budget proposal. Navy Secretary Gordon England spoke to all three lawmakers last week to inform them of the Kennedy's proposed shutdown, which could save about \$1.2 billion.

Nelson said the USS Kitty Hawk, based in Yokosuka, Japan, is scheduled to be decommissioned in 2006 and its replacement, the USS George H.W. Bush, is two years behind schedule, and won't be in service until 2009.

Crenshaw said that it's one of the smallest savings in the \$30 billion cut in the Pentagon's 2006 budget proposal, but could have the most impact on military readiness. He also criticized the decision to make the cuts in behind-the-scenes budget meetings, rather than through the issue for the 2005 Quadrennial Defense Review process.

"The leadership in the Pentagon is making a short-sighted decision prompted by budget

woes," he said. "If you take this carrier out of service, that's an irreversible decision... that puts us at tremendous strategic risk." But Christopher Preble, foreign policy studies director for the Cato Institute and Gulf War Navy veteran, said the usefulness of U.S. carriers against terrorists is limited, since the only obvious concentration of terrorists to launch large-scale attacks against was in Afghanistan.

"For them to make the argument that carriers are essential for the war on terror is absurd," he said. "There are things that the carrier can do that no other platform can, but you can say that about most of the U.S. military."

The Kennedy, based at Mayport Naval Station, returned to Florida in December after a six-month mission in the Middle East. The carrier has a crew of more than 3,100, and Crenshaw estimates its presence brings about \$250 million annually into the Jacksonville area.

The 36-year-old carrier underwent \$350 million in repairs last spring and is scheduled to undergo another \$378 million overhaul later this year.

He also pointed to 2003 and 2002 Navy posture statements, which note that "real world experience and analysis indicate that a carrier force of 15 ships is necessary."

Preble said in the past Congress and the White House have overturned similar defense department cuts, but described the legislation as an unusual pre-emptive move.

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CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

As of March 1, smoking will not be permitted in Army billeting or hotels worldwide, such as the Kelley Hotel on Kelley Barracks in Stuttgart, Germany. The 6th Army Support Group, based in Stuttgart, will eliminate smoking rooms from its lodging sites, including at the Armed Forces Recreation Center facilities in Garmisch, by Jan. 31.

## Army to ban smoking at lodging facilities

By CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Guests at Army lodging facilities who want to smoke will soon have to go outside to do so.

Smoking rooms are being phased out at Army lodging worldwide, and, as of March 1, smoking will not be permitted inside Army hotels or other billeting. The decision was made in November by the Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation's board of directors.

"The trend within the Department of Defense was to discourage smoking for health reasons," said Peter Isaacs, chief operating officer for the Army's Community and Family Support Center in Washington, D.C.

"To stay in concert with the larger goals of the department, the board decided it should prohibit smoking [at Army lodging],"

The smoking ban applies to hotels and billeting used mostly for official business, such as the Kelley Hotel and Swabian Inn in

Stuttgart. It also applies to recreational lodging such as the new Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch.

Guests would be permitted to smoke on their rooms' patio or balcony, or on the garden patios included with some rooms at Army lodging in Hawaii, Isaacs said.

Smoking has not been permitted at Air Force guest rooms and common areas since 2001, according to Wolfgang R. Hofmann, a spokesman for U.S. Air Forces in Europe in Ramstein. Temporary-living facilities, where airmen stay before they find permanent living quarters at their new duty station, are also smoke-free.

The Air Force will soon start charging a standard \$150 cleaning fee for guests who violate lodging rules by smoking in their rooms, Hofmann said. Similar fees are already in place at some Air Force billeting.

In the Navy, 20 percent of bachelors' quarters rooms are set aside for smokers, according to Lt. Allie Freeman, a spokes-

woman at Naval Station Rota, Spain.

"There are no plans to change that," Freeman said, as long as the smoking rooms do not have shared ventilation, heating or air conditioning with nonsmoking rooms.

She said the Navy Lodge at Rota is completely nonsmoking, but she did not know the smoking policy for Navy lodges worldwide.

The 6th Army Support Group, which includes Stuttgart and Garmisch, announced several weeks ago that its lodging facilities would go smoke-free by Jan. 31.

"We've been discussing for over a year on how we were going to do it," said Joe Strobel, the 6th ASG's lodging manager. "This is the best season to do it because it's the slow season."

Strobel said long-term guests who smoke won't be forced to stop smoking in their rooms on Jan. 31. They can continue smoking in their rooms until they check out.

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# Army reorganizes courses for promotions

## Changes affect those moving up to major, lieutenant colonel

BY RICK EMERT  
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — The U.S. Army is revamping two of its classes geared primarily toward captains and majors, affecting courses provided by the 3747th Multi-Functional Training Brigade for reserve and active-duty officers in Europe.

The Combined Arms Service Staff School, a requirement for most captains to be promoted to major, is being eliminated. The Command and General Staff Course, required for most majors to be promoted to lieutenant colonel, is switching to the Intermediate Level Education course.

The changes come as the Army Training and Doctrine Command falls in line with the Army's efforts to streamline systems and update technology, said Lt. Col. Jonathan Beard, deputy commander of the 3747th brigade.

"The Officer Education course is in transition," Beard said. "The [Combined Arms Service Staff School] is sort of outdated. With the transition, TRADOC is getting in line with the rest of the transforming Army."

One change, he said, is the addition of scenarios from recent conflicts, such as Iraq and Afghanistan, to the curriculum.

The combined arms course has changed to the Combined Arms Exercise, a 16-day course offered for a limited time to officers who did not attend the Captain's Career Course, Beard said.



STEVEN DYKES/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Officers create a graphic of a simulated mission during the Command and General Staff College in June at Grafenwöhr, Germany. The Command and General Staff College has changed to the Intermediate Level Education course, and the former Combined Arms Service Staff School has changed to the Combined Arms Exercise.

Active-duty captains in nonoperational career fields, including some logistics, medical and judge advocate general branches, can attend the course offered by the 3747th Brigade, according to Lt. Col. Gary Cleland, who until recently was the Officer Education System Battalion commander. Operational branches include infantry, artillery and armor, among others.

Information offered in the former combined arms course and the current Combined Arms Exercise is now offered in the

Captain's Career Course to lieutenants and junior captains, Beard said.

The new Combined Arms Exercise course will be offered on academic year 2006. Officers in operational branches who don't qualify for it in Europe must have taken the Combined Arms Service Staff School course or have a waiver signed by a colonel or above after receiving credit by serving in a staff position during a deployment, Cleland said.

The Command and General Staff Course

has changed to the Intermediate Level Education course. The 3747th will offer one final phase of the course this year before switching to the intermediate course, Beard said.

Traditionally, CGSC was a two-year course. Now, the course is offered over a 13-month period including two, two-week blocks of training and the rest being individual duty training. In Germany, the final Command and General Staff Course will be offered at Grafenwöhr and either Kaiserslautern or Heidelberg for the individual duty phase. The two-week annual training blocks will be conducted only at Grafenwöhr, Beard said.

Instructors from the 3747th attended workshops in order to make the changes to classes offered at Grafenwöhr.

"For every four hours that an instructor spends at the podium, he has to spend up to four hours preparing for the class," Cleland said. "Our instructors are very professional with a good base of knowledge. It's a lot of work, but they are willing to do it because they realize the benefits to the Army."

The new formats for the classes, including smaller blocks of instruction, allow for any future changes to the courses to be made much more simply, Cleland said.

Although the changes to the officer courses may make things more difficult for instructors and the officers who must take the courses, the changes are necessary, Beard said.

"Technology has always outpaced doctrine. [Training and Doctrine Command] is trying to make sure there is no lag between technology and doctrine," he said. "It didn't evolve like this, we would still be riding horses into combat."

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## Memorial service honors Rota sailor

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER  
Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — Petty Officer 3rd Class Dexter Orasing, an aircraft fuels operator, didn't have the most glamorous job in the Navy.

But if not for the sailor nicknamed "Tiny Tim," and others like him, planes would never have gotten off the ground and troops in places such as Iraq wouldn't have received the supplies and equipment they needed.

Orasing often worked behind the scenes, whether it was in the Navy or at his church. But family and friends who knew him said Thursday that the 27-year-old sailor quietly did his job well, often putting the needs of others ahead of his own.

Orasing, who was stationed at Rota, fell unconscious and died on New Year's Day after attending a party with his wife and friends.

"He was a man who did things that we sometimes don't notice and don't see. ... He was always doing things to serve," said the Rev. Robert Rogers, pastor at the First Baptist Church of Rota.

Family, friends and co-workers remembered Orasing as a dedicated father, loving husband and generous friend during a memorial service Thursday at the base chapel. He leaves behind his wife, Stephanie, and their three children: Shelton, 6; Matthew, 3; and Gabriel, 6 months. He served in the Navy for more than seven years.

Orasing, a native of La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines, grew up in Houston and enlisted in the Navy on Aug. 22, 1997.

Between 1998 and 2000, he served aboard the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy, where he received a letter of commendation for "superior performance" as an aviation fuels filter operator. He arrived in Rota in October 2002 and worked as a dispatcher and fuel truck operator.

During his time in Spain, he was part of a team that pumped more than 120 million gallons of fuel to planes — many of them heading to or from the Persian Gulf region.



SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

Flowers and photos were placed on the chapel altar Thursday at Naval Station Rota, Spain, at a memorial service for Petty Officer 3rd Class Dexter Orasing.

Orasing was known as a "Tiny Tim" because he was only 5 foot 2. Friends and co-workers, who also called him "Dex," said Orasing was good for a laugh and would sometimes loan his car to friends who needed wheels. Orasing is one of three people from the base who died in the past week. Petty Officer 2nd Class Ronald Atwood died on New Year's Day after his car ran off the side of the road near the base. Atwood, 26, originally from Virginia, was a construction electrician with the base's Public Works Department. He served six years in the Navy.

The base planned a memorial service Friday for Atwood at the base chapel.

On Tuesday, Noelia Ruiz Martinez, wife of a U.S. servicemember stationed in Rota, died from injuries suffered in a two-car accident a week ago. Her husband is remains hospitalized in Cadiz.

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## Storm damage cleared, Naples park reopens

BY SANDRA JONTZ  
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Most of the recreational facility at Carney Park has been reopened to visitors after violent wind storms Dec. 26 toppled trees, uprooted fences and tore roofing off some facilities.

The trails, cabins, dog park and other recreational facilities typically open this time of year were available to patrons three days later. The park's nine-hole golf course opened the following day.

The storm ripped siding and blew off some roofing off the shared Crater Cantina and the Navy Exchange mini-mart facility. No one was inside the building at the time of the storm. The building is open only during the park's peak season, which runs May through September, said park director Patrick Kenney.

The facility should be repaired in time to open for the summer, he said.

About 11,000 people typically visit the park in December, about one-quarter of the park's visitors during its peak season, he said.

On the football field, a "2,000-pound bleacher was picked up and moved about 20 feet," he said. "That gives you an idea of how strong the winds were. We don't know if it was a little torn that picked up and moved it or if the winds blew it."

Some of the camping cabins also lost roofing, as did the main administrative office building, he said.

About 25 employees were sent home Dec. 27 after the storm for safety concerns because officials didn't know if any weakened trees might fall, he said.

After public works surveyed the park, the employees were allowed to return.

It's too early for Morale Welfare and Recreation officials to provide a cost estimate of damage and repairs, Kenney said.

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# General: Reserve can't fulfill war duties

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Army Reserve, whose part-time soldiers serve in combat and support roles in Iraq and Afghanistan, is so hampered by misguided Army policies and practices that it is "rapidly degenerating into a 'broken' force," the Reserve's most senior general says.

Gen. James R. Helmly, chief of the Army Reserve, wrote in an internal memorandum to the Army's top uniformed officer that the Reserve has reached the point of being unable to fulfill its missions in Iraq and Afghanistan and to regenerate its forces for future missions.

The Army Reserve has about 200,000 soldiers, nearly 52,000 of them on active duty for the war on terrorism, mainly in Iraq. They provide combat support, medical care, transportation, logistics, services and other support. About 50 have died in the Iraq war.

Helmly's Dec. 20 memo is addressed to Gen. Peter Schoomaker, the Army chief of staff, and was first reported in Wednesday's editions of The (Baltimore) Sun, whose Web site has a link to the eight-page document. Two officials who saw the original memo confirmed its contents to The As-

## Helmly's memo says force is becoming 'broken' and blames Army policies on fighting terrorism

sociated Press.

"The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the Army Reserve's inability under current policies, procedures and practices ... to meet mission requirements associated with Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom," Helmly wrote, using the military names for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

"The Army Reserve is additionally in grave danger of being unable to meet other operational requirements," including those in classified contingency plans for other potential wars or national emergencies, "and is rapidly degenerating into a 'broken' force," Helmly wrote.

The Army Reserve's ability to

regenerate its recently deployed forces is "eroding daily," he said, not because Reserve troops who finish tours in Iraq and Afghanistan are required to leave substantial amounts of their equipment for other forces and for contractors.

Al Schilf, spokesman for Helmly, said the issues raised in the memo "are ones that the general has raised in the past. The Army is working to deal with many of those issues and has addressed several of them, such as tour length."

"He wouldn't have signed his name to [the memo] if he didn't stand by it."

Helmly also referred to a practice, not previously disclosed, of requiring each Reserve soldier who receives a mobilization order with less than 30 days notice to sign a "volunteer statement."

From his brief description of the practice it appears that this is done to reduce the number of reported cases of short-notice, involuntary mobilizations.

He also criticized the practice of offering Reserve soldiers an

extra \$1,000 a month if they volunteer to be mobilized a second time. This confuses "volunteers" with "mercenaries," he said.

Helmly's blunt description of these problems is the sort of internal critique that rarely becomes public, although some private defense analysts and members of Congress have openly questioned whether the strains on the Army caused by the Iraq war would eventually threaten the all-volunteer force.

Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., said Wednesday he was disturbed by the concerns raised in Helmly's memo.

"By consistently underestimating the number of troops necessary for the successful outcome of Iraq, the administration has placed a tremendous burden on the Army Reserve and created this crisis," Reed said.

Col. Joe Curtin, a spokesman at Army headquarters in the Pentagon, said the Army has a group of experts studying a wide range of problems facing not only the Army Reserve but also the Army National Guard.

"These issues are largely being addressed now," Curtin said.

"General Helmly's concerns are of a serious nature, and the Army realizes it has to work very hard and diligently to resolve them, and our intent is to resolve those issues."

Since President Bush launched a global war on terrorism after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, about 65,000 Army Reserve soldiers, or about two-thirds of that entire force, have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, according to Pentagon figures. About one-third have deployed more than once.

Among Helmly's other complaints:

■ The Army is relying too heavily on volunteers to mobilize for duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. The most likely to volunteer are "those who often enjoy less responsible positions in civilian life," he said.

■ The Army has failed to use its legal authority to call to active duty those members of the Reserve who have violated their service contract, by missing training or other actions. Helmly said he asked for but was not given the authority to discharge those Reserve members, who number 16,400.

Seniors report Lee Shane contributed to this report from Washington.



Helmly

# Iraq state of emergency extended through election

BY BASSEM MROUE

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A state of emergency, originally announced two months ago, was extended for 30 days throughout the country except for the Kurdish-run areas north of the country, an Iraqi government statement said. The decree includes a night-time curfew and gives the government additional power to make arrests and launch operations.

"We expect some escalation [of attacks] here and there" ahead of Jan. 30 elections, Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said. "This is a precaution to protect the Iraqi people as well as the elections."

Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, ground forces commander in Iraq, also predicted more violence leading up to the elections and said he couldn't guarantee the safety of all voters.

"I can't guarantee that every person in Iraq that wants to vote, goes to a polling booth and can do that safely," Metz told reporters. "We're going to do everything possible to create that condition for them, but we are fighting an enemy who cares less who he kills, when he kills and how he kills."

Meanwhile, the bodies of 15 young Iraqi Shiite killed last week while seeking work at a U.S. base have been found in a field near Mosul, police said Thursday, as the Iraqi government extended a state of emergency for a month because of violence ahead of landmark elections.

Police said the insurgents shot the 18 men, who ranged in age from 14 to 20, execution style on Dec. 8 after stopping their two minibuses about 30 miles west of the volatile city, 225 miles north of Baghdad.

All the men were Shiite Muslims from Baghdad's northern neighborhood of Kadimiya who had been hired by an Iraqi contractor to work at a U.S. base in Mosul. The men were killed on Wednesday.

A second car bomber killed five Iraqi policemen in Baquba on Wednesday.

In a statement posted on a Web site



An Iraqi woman walks past a poster that says 'no for dictatorship, yes for the Iraqi unity' and containing an image of the Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah al-Sistani on Thursday in Baghdad. The country's elections are still scheduled for Jan. 30.

## U.S. soldier's trial for alleged Iraq prison abuse to begin

PORT HOOD, Texas — An Army reservist seen prominently in the photos of Iraqi prisoners who were suffering sexual humiliation and other brutality at the Abu Ghraib prison goes to trial Friday.

Barring last-minute plea deals, Spc. Charles Graner of Uniontown, Pa., will be the first of four soldiers from the Maryland-based 372nd Military Police Company to be tried for crimes that allegedly occurred in the Baghdad prison in late 2003.

Among the soldiers is Pfc. Lynndee England, who in October gave birth to a child that Army prosecutors claim was the result of an extramarital affair with Graner. Her Port Hood trial has not yet been scheduled.

From The Associated Press

Thursday, the al-Qaida in Iraq, led by Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility for both the Hillah and the Baquba attacks. Meanwhile, as foreign ministers from Iraq's neighboring states met in Jordan Thursday, King Abdullah II tried to temper remarks that reflected Arab fears the elections will produce a Shiite Muslim-dominated Iraq by align itself with Persian Iran.

In an interview published Thursday by Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Rai Al-Aam, the king stressed he was not opposed to Shiites and said his comments that Iran was trying

to influence the vote and create "Shiite crescent" had been misinterpreted.

Iran — a predominantly Shiite state — called the remarks an insult to Iraqis.

Police also discovered two beheaded Iraqi policemen, their bodies charred from a fire Thursday in a house in Basra used by election officials to organize the Jan. 30 national vote, a police official said on condition of anonymity.

A Marine belonging to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action Thursday while conducting operations in the Al Anbar province in western Iraq.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,338 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,053 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is one lower than the Defense Department's tally.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,200 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 944 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A soldier was killed Tuesday when a patrol was attacked in Tal Afar in northern Iraq.

The latest identification reported by the Defense Department:

■ Army Spc. Craig L. Nelson, 21, Bossier City, La., died Dec. 29 at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., of injuries sustained Dec. 16 when an explosive detonated near his military vehicle in Baghdad, assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 156th Army Regiment, Shipwreck, La.

# Marine accused of desertion, missing again

## Hassoun fails to report for duty; U.S., Lebanon officials have no info on whereabouts

By SAM F. GHATTAS

The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — The U.S. Embassy said Thursday it could not confirm that a U.S. Marine who has been charged with desertion had fled to Lebanon and the family of the Lebanese-American was out of reach to comment on the second desertion allegation against the Marine in less than a year.

Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun, who vanished in Iraq in June and resurfaced in Beirut two weeks later before returning to the United States to face desertion charges, did not report for duty at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina by a noon deadline on Tuesday.

Hassoun's command has since declared him a deserter, Maj. Matt Morgan, a spokesman for the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, said Wednesday.

Hassoun was in West Jordan, Utah, for about a week in December, Hassoun family spokesman Tarek Nossair said. Nossair said he couldn't confirm broadcast reports that Hassoun may have gone to Canada or Lebanon.

The U.S. Embassy in Beirut said Thursday it could not confirm whether Hassoun has returned to his native Lebanon.

"We have no confirmation that he's here and we have no further comment," said an Embassy spokesperson who asked not to be named.

Attempts to reach Hassoun's family in northern Lebanon were unsuccessful.

Security officials in northern Lebanon,

where Hassoun's family is from, said they have no information on Hassoun possibly returning to the region.

One security official in Beirut, speaking on customary condition of anonymity, said Hassoun had been banned from entering Lebanon after he left the country in July.



Hassoun

Hassoun, a 24-year-old Muslim who has dual Lebanese and American citizenship, was listed as missing in Iraq after he failed to report for duty June 20. A week later, the Arabic news network Al-Jazeera broadcast a photo of Hassoun blindfolded and with a sword behind his head.

One claim said Hassoun was beheaded but later it was retracted.

On July 8, Hassoun contacted U.S. diplomats in Beirut and was taken to the American Embassy where he met his family and was returned to the United States.

How Hassoun ended up in Lebanon remains a mystery. He has made one statement since returning to the United States, saying he was captured and held against

his will by anti-coalition militaries.

During the assault on Fallujah in November, U.S. troops recovered Hassoun's personal belongings in a box in a commercial building.

He was charged in December with desertion, theft, loss of government property and wrongful appropriation of a government vehicle. The desertion count carries a five-year maximum prison sentence and the other counts carry 10-year maximum sentences. The corporal's hearing on the Iraq desertion charge had been delayed until Jan. 13 to allow Hassoun to hire a civilian lawyer to assist his military attorneys.

## Lending a healing hand



SEAN KINMONS/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Capt. Esther Lazo, a physician assistant with Company C, 225th Forward Support Battalion, checks the breathing pattern of an Iraqi baby during the medical assistance visit at the Al-Ta'meen Health Clinic on Dec. 29. About 40 medical personnel treated more than 160 Iraqis.

## Closing arguments delayed in alleged drowning

By ANGELA K. BROWN

The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — Closing arguments were delayed Thursday in the military trial of a soldier accused in an Iraqi civilian's drowning death because the jury of Army officers said they wanted to hear from more witnesses.

Jurors said they wanted to hear from witnesses who weren't called to testify in the case, including Army Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Perkins. He's being tried on charges of involuntary manslaughter, aggravated assault, obstruction of justice and lying to investigators. He faces a sentence ranging from nothing to 26 years if convicted.

The judge, Col. Gregory Gross,

said he would research the jurors' request and resume arguments later in the day. Gross rejected the jury's request for documents from previous court hearings in the case and other witness statements. In a court-martial, jurors are allowed to submit questions for witnesses.

Jurors also wanted to hear from Army 1st Lt. Jack Saville, but the judge said that would not happen. Saville is to be tried in March on the same charges as Perkins — as well as a conspiracy charge. Saville faces a maximum sentence of 29 years in prison.

An Iraqi civilian testified Wednesday that he and his cousin were detained while driving back to Samarra with a delivery of

plumbing supplies, then forced at gunpoint into the cold Tigris River as U.S. soldiers laughed.

Marwan Fadel Hassoun said he tried to save his 19-year-old cousin by grabbing his hand, but the powerful current swept Zaidoun Fadel Hassoun away. Marwan said the body was found in the river nearly two weeks later.

Three soldiers called by the defense testified Wednesday that they were looking through night-vision equipment that night and saw two Iraqis on the river bank after the incident.

Under cross-examination, two of the soldiers said they did not reveal that information until last summer because Army investigators, convinced that an Iraqi had died, had intimidated them.

## U.S. military looks into Gitmo abuse allegations

By PAISLEY DODDS

The Associated Press

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — Investigators will look into allegations of prisoner abuse at Guantanamo Bay described in recently released FBI documents, authorities said, as a new batch of FBI memos was released.

The U.S. Southern Command in Miami assigned Army Brig. Gen. John T. Furlow to lead the investigation, which could begin as early as this week. The military maintains that most incidents detailed in the FBI memos occurred in 2002 when the prison was just opening, and that some of the interrogation techniques labeled as "aggressive" are no longer in use.

Documents published last month show FBI agents warned the government about abuse and mistreatment when the first prisoners arrived, more than a year before a scandal at an Iraqi Abu Ghraib prison. One letter, written by a senior U.S. Justice Department official, suggested the Pentagon failed to act on the FBI complaints.

"It will be fully investigated," Guantanamo's commanding Army Brig. Gen. Jay Hood said Wednesday, adding that recent articles about allegations have skewed the public's understanding about the mission and the troops' commitment to strict standards.

"Part of that skepticism has occurred because of how ugly Abu Ghraib was," Hood said. "I don't know of anybody wearing uniform who has not, to one degree or another, been sickened by the photos we've all seen. On the other hand, to allege that the 2,000 Americans working here are continuing in an effort to abuse or torture the men under our charge is foolishness."

He said the independent military review was necessary to help and interview people who had left the remote outpost and were no longer under his command.

## Report: Army doctors aided in prison abuse

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — U.S.

Army doctors violated the Geneva Conventions by helping intelligence officers carry out abusive interrogations at military detention centers, perhaps participating in torture, according to a report in Thursday's edition of the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine.

Medical personnel helped tailor interrogations to the physical and mental conditions of individual detainees at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq and the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the report claims. It says medical workers gave interrogators access to patient medical files and that psychiatrists and other physicians collaborated with interrogators and guards who, in turn, deprived detainees of sleep, restricted them to diets of bread and water and exposed them to extremes of heat and cold.

The small team of investigators, including an attorney, will report their findings to the Southern Command's Army Gen. Bantz J. Trudick in February.

The American Civil Liberties Union last month released e-mails obtained under the Freedom of Information Act in which the FBI accused interrogators of inserting lit cigarettes in prisoners' ears and shackling them into fetal positions for hours, forcing them to soil themselves.

Associated Press writers Curt Anderson in Washington and Frank Griffiths in San Juan, Puerto Rico, contributed to this report.

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## Talking politics in Iraq



COURTESY OF THE U.S. ARMY/AP

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., talks with soldiers at Camp Al Tahrer in Baghdad on Wednesday. During his visit, Kerry discussed sports, the presidential election and the state of the war in Iraq. From left: Spc. Michael Foley, 356th Engineer Battalion; Kevin Cole, 356th Engineer Battalion; Spc. Michelle Lacourse, 126th Aviation Battalion; and Sgt. Raymond Hegarty, 356th Engineer Battalion.

## Warning from Army spells end of war blog

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A military doctor whose Web site chronicled the bloody aftermath of the suicide bombing of a dining tent in Iraq has shut down the site after being told his postings violated Army regulations.

In an e-mail from Iraq on Tuesday, Maj. Michael Cohen, a doctor with the 67th Combat Support Hospital unit, said he received a written warning but was not told which Army regulations were being violated.

A short notice replaced the account on Cohen's site, www.67csh-docs.com.

"Levels above me have ordered, yes ORDERED, me to shut down this website." They cite that the information contained in these pages violates several Army Regulations. I certainly disagree with this," it read. On his Web log, Cohen had described the chaotic scene after

the Dec. 21 mess hall bombing in which 22 people died.

He reported that eventually there were more wounded than emergency room beds.

Lt. Col. Steven Boylan, a spokesman for coalition forces in Iraq, said he could not confirm the investigation into Cohen's blog.

He said the Pentagon allows blogs that do not disrupt unit discipline, make statements on behalf of commanders or the Army, or reveal details that could aid attackers.

"Sometimes a blog might contain subtle nuances from which you can put together a complete picture of our operations, which insurgents can use to attack us," Boylan said.

Since his blog went off-line last week, Cohen, 35, said he has received about 150 e-mails urging him to restore his account of his year as a surgeon at Forward Operating Base Marez.

## Aloha Run hoofs it to Afghanistan

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Great Aloha Run organizers are taking the charity footrace to U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

They have helped set up three courses at undisclosed locations in the country where some 5,800 Special Forces soldiers are deployed. For security reasons, the military has declined to name the location of the courses.

More than 2,000 Hawaii-based

troops will be allowed to participate this month in the 8.15-mile fun run.

Race organizer Carole Kai said runners in Afghanistan will be asked to donate to the run and its 27 charities, rather than pay the \$25 entry fee.

The annual Presidents Day race on Oahu attracts more than 20,000 participants, including more than 5,000 military personnel.

## Fallujah killings prompt lawsuits from families

BY ESTES THOMPSON

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Families of four slain security contractors whose bodies were burned and dragged through the streets of Fallujah, Iraq, have sued the workers' former company.

The families contend that the company, Blackwater Security Consulting, cut corners that led to the men's deaths last year. The lawsuit filed Wednesday seeks unspecified damages.

The workers were sent into Fallujah without proper equipment and personnel to defend the supply convoy they were guarding, according to the civil lawsuit.

The fact that these four Americans found themselves located in the high-risk, war-torn city of Fallujah without armored vehicles, automatic weapons and fewer than the minimum number of team members was no accident," the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit alleges that one week before the deaths, Blackwater fired a project manager who had insisted that the contractors use armored vehicles.

In a statement issued Wednesday, a spokesman for

North Carolina-based Blackwater said the company was "deeply saddened by the tragic loss of our four colleagues as a result of a terrorist act."

"Blackwater hopes that the honor and dignity of our fallen comrades are not diminished by the use of the legal process," spokesman Chris Bertelli said in the statement.

The attack made worldwide headlines, as frenzied and jubilant Iraqi crowds dragged the charred bodies of the four Americans through the streets and strung two of them up from a bridge. Killed were Stephen S. Helvenston, Mike R. Teague, Jerko Gerald Zovko and Wesley J.K. Batalona.

Blackwater contracted with ESS Support Services Worldwide to provide security for food shipments to U.S. bases in Iraq.

According to the suit, the contract called for security teams to have two armored vehicles and a minimum of six personnel, as well as a heavy machine gun that could fire up to 850 rounds per minute.

But plaintiffs' attorney Dan Callahan said the victims were sent out in unarmored vehicles, without the heavy machine gun and without a map, and got lost.

"When they went out, they got slaughtered," Callahan said.



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## IN THE STATES

# Justice nominee draws criticism for prison abuse

BY MARK SHERMAN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney general nominee Alberto Gonzales drew scorching criticism from



Gonzales

Senate Democrats on Thursday for his role in Bush administration policies on the treatment of terror suspects. He repudiated torture tactics and vowed at a contentious confirmation hearing to abide by international treaties on prisoner rights.

"I will no longer represent only the White House. I will represent the United States of America and

its people. I understand the difference between the two roles," President Bush's counsel told the Senate Judiciary Committee.

His assurances did little to placate Democrats.

"America's troops and citizens are at greater risk" because of administration policies that are "tantamount to torture," said Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, the panel's top Democrat.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., told Gonzales that policies he supported or helped formulate "have been used by the administration, the military and the CIA to justify torture and Geneva Convention violations by military and civilian personnel."

Despite the Democratic fire-works, Gonzales' nomination was widely expected to be confirmed by the GOP-led Senate. Even his detractors praised the rags-to-riches story of the Texas-raised son of Mexican im-



Opponents of Attorney General nominee Alberto Gonzales appear at a Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing on Thursday.

migrants.

"The road you traveled... all the way to the White House is a tribute to you and your family," Leahy said.

Gonzales, 49, seated by himself at the witness table, answered pointed questions in a calm, even voice. His wife, three sons, mother-in-law and a brother sat behind him in the first row of the audience.

Before Gonzales' confirmation hearing got under way, the White House refused to provide senators additional documents on his role in the decision to allow aggressive interrogations of terrorism detainees, adding to the ad-

ministration's confrontation with congressional Democrats over the now-repudiated policies.

David Leitch, the White House's deputy counsel, told committee Democrats in a letter released Thursday that the administration had already turned over all of the documents it plans to.

Asked about the torture scandal at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison, Gonzales said he was "sickened and outraged by those photos." But he declined to give a legal opinion on the alleged abuses, suggesting he didn't want to prejudge a possible criminal case if he becomes attorney general.

## Mad cow disease

WASHINGTON — A Senate Agriculture Committee majority on Thursday approved the nomination of Nebraska Gov. Mike Johanns as the nation's 28th agriculture secretary.

Johanns is first of President Bush's second-term nominees to clear a Senate committee.

Johanns will resign as governor upon confirmation.

## Agenda for schools

WASHINGTON — White House domestic policy chief Margaret Spellings, who helped set the national agenda for schools, began the task Thursday of defining how she would lead them.

Spellings, nominated by President Bush to be the country's eighth education secretary, went before the Senate education committee Thursday to take questions about her views.

## Growing trade deficit

WASHINGTON — U.S. Commerce Secretary nominee Carlos M. Gutierrez is promising to aggressively fight the unfair trade practices of foreign nations and to speed up the government's handling of individual cases. America's annual trade deficit expected to top \$600 billion. American companies have lost 2.7 million jobs over the past four years.

From The Associated Press

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# Conviction reversed for mom who drowned kids

BY MICHAEL GRACZY  
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Andrea Yates' capital murder convictions for drowning her children were overturned Thursday by an appeals court, which ruled that a prosecution witness' erroneous testimony about a nonexistent TV episode could have been crucial.

Yates' lawyers had argued at a hearing last month before a three-judge panel of the First Court of Appeals in Houston that psychiatrist Park Dietz was wrong when he mentioned an episode of the TV show "Law & Order" involving a woman found innocent by reason of insanity for drowning her children.

After jurors found Yates guilty, attorneys in the case and jurors learned no such episode existed.

"We conclude that there is a reasonable likelihood that Dr. Dietz's false testimony could have affected the judgment of the jury," the court ruled. "We further conclude that Dr. Dietz's false testimony affected the substantial rights of appellant."

The appellate ruling returns the case for a new trial, although prosecutors said they hoped instead to successfully appeal Thursday's ruling.

"We fully intend to pursue a motion for a rehearing," said Harris County Assistant District Attorney Alan Curry, who argued the case

before the appeals court. "Barring that, we'll continue to appeal to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. We still believe we have a good shot to prevail in appeal."

Jurors in 2002 sentenced Yates to life in prison in the 2001 deaths of three of her children. She was not tried in the deaths of the other two.

The defense's appeal cited 19 errors from her trial, but the appeals court said since the false testimony issue reversed the conviction, it was not ruling on the other matters. Among other things, Yates attorneys had claimed the Texas insanity standard is unconstitutional.

Prosecutors told the court last month there was no evidence

Dietz intentionally lied and that the testimony was evoked by Yates' defense attorney during cross-examination. They also argued that Dietz's testimony wasn't material to the case and there was plenty of other testimony about Yates' plans to kill her children.

A woman answering the telephone at Dietz's Newport Beach, Calif., office said Thursday there was no immediate comment from him or his firm. He had testified the episode aired shortly before the drownings, and other testimony during the trial had indicated that Yates watched the series.

A wet and bedraggled Yates called police to her home on June 20, 2001, and showed them the

bodies of her five children: Noah, 7; John, 5; Paul, 3; Luke, 2; and 6-month-old Mary. She had called them into the bathroom and drowned them one by one.

According to testimony, Yates was overwhelmed by motherhood, considered herself a bad mother, and had attempted suicide and been hospitalized for depression.

Prosecutors acknowledged she was mentally ill but argued that she knew right from wrong and was thus not legally insane. Dietz is a nationally known expert who also took part in such high profile cases as those of Susan Smith, convicted of killing her two children in a South Carolina lake; serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer; and "Unabomber" Ted Kaczynski.



President Bush shakes hands with Dr. Eric Falchner after delivering his remarks Wednesday that continue to push for limits on jury awards for medical mistakes at the Gateway Center in Collinsville, Ill.

## Bush pushes for medical liability reform

BY SCOTT LINDLAU  
The Associated Press

COLLINSVILLE, Ill. — President Bush on Wednesday opened a new drive for caps on medical malpractice awards, contending the limits would lower health care costs. Opponents said such ceilings would merely shield doctors and others who provide poor health care.

"I believe the voters made their position clear on Election Day on medical liability reform," Bush said, citing his re-election as evidence of support for a proposal that has passed the House but failed in the Senate.

The renewed battle revived a partisan debate about whether Bush's victory in November gave him a second-term mandate to

push his big-ticket items through Congress.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., criticized Bush's medical malpractice proposal as well as the president's claim of having new political capital.

"Barely two months after promising to unify and lead the country after a bitter election, the president's again pushing for legislation that will further divide it," Kennedy said.

"The president's medical malpractice plan is nothing but a shameful shield for drug companies and HMOs who hurt people through negligence," Kennedy said.

Bush made his case in Madison County, across the Mississippi River from St. Louis. The county has been called the "judicial hell-

hole" of the nation by the American Tort Reform Association last year because of a reputation for huge awards won by plaintiffs.

Lawyers in the area say the legal situation has been exaggerated and that large malpractice awards have been scarce.

"The United States Congress needs to pass real medical liability reform this year," Bush said, slapping his lectern with an open palm to emphasize his point.

Behind him, the White House advance team arrayed audience members in white medical coats. The president wants to place a limit of \$250,000 on noneconomic damages, or the pain and suffering portions of malpractice awards.

Bush would impose no limits on economic losses suffered at the hands of bad doctors.

## Pilots call for more info on laser risk

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Officials with airline pilots unions say the government should be doing more to alert them to incidents involving lasers and to provide guidance about how best to protect themselves against beams that can blind.

At least eight recent incidents involve lasers being pointed at aircraft cockpits as they approached for landings. No one was hurt and all the aircraft landed safely.

Denis Breslin, an American Airlines captain, said pilots learned about the incidents only through the news media. He said the government should have a way to alert pilots so they can take precautions.

"Pilots want a generalized warning and training. I think that's not too much to ask," said Breslin, first vice president of the Allied Pilots Association.

Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Laura Brown said the agency is very concerned about the safety of pilots, passengers and the rest of the flight crew. "We're putting the finishing touches on fresh advice for pilots," she said.

An FAA study released in June found that most pilots subjected to a laser flash in a simulator reported temporary visual impairment and brief distraction.

Of the hundreds of cases in the past in which airplane cockpits have been illuminated by lasers, none resulted in an accident, the study said.

## Dems force debate on Ohio vote

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A small group of Democrats agreed Thursday to force House and Senate debates on Election Day problems in Ohio before letting the U.S. Congress certify President Bush's win over Sen. John Kerry.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, a California Democrat, signed a challenge mounted by House Democrats to Ohio's 20 electoral votes, which put Bush over the top. By law, a challenge signed by members of the House and Senate requires both chambers to meet separately

for up to two hours to consider it. Lawmakers are allowed to speak for no more than five minutes each.

While Bush's victory is not in jeopardy, the Democratic challenge will force Congress to interrupt tallying the Electoral College vote, which was scheduled to begin Thursday. It would be only the second time since 1877 that the House and Senate were forced into separate meetings to consider electoral votes.

Bush defeated Kerry, 286-252, with 270 electoral votes needed for victory.



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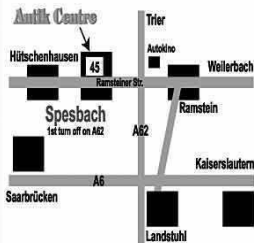
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## Seattle named 'fit' as Houston declared 'fat'

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Must be something in the coffee.

Seattle has been named the fittest city in the United States in the February issue of Men's Fitness magazine, leaping past the buff competition from Honolulu, Colorado Springs, San Francisco and Denver.

Exercising faithfully and shunning fast food boosted Seattle to the top from No. 6 last year, Men's Fitness Editor in Chief Neal Boulton said.

"Eighty-five percent of Seattle residents get some exercise every month, and that's a really significant thing," Boulton said.

The city's jittery love affair with espresso might fuel some of that activity, he noted. "There's not only a lot of it, it's pretty darn strong."

In its nonscientific Seventh Annual Fittest and Fittest Cities Report, the magazine compares 50 cities by weighing 14 factors, including fast food restaurants per capita, TV watching, air quality and parks. In Seattle, for example, the magazine says sporting goods stores and gyms outnumber fast food joints — a key statistic.

Houston was named the fittest city for the fourth time in five years, followed by Philadelphia, Detroit, Memphis and Chicago.

Seattle's claim to the fitness

### The fittest

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4. San Francisco
5. Denver
6. Portland, Ore.
7. Sacramento, Calif.
8. Tucson, Ariz.
9. San Diego
10. Albuquerque, N.M.

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crowm makes sense to Doug Sherry and his Wheaton Terrier, Bing, who walk the three-mile path around Seattle's Green Lake every day, rain or shine.

"Everyone I know does something," explained Sherry, 35, who also hits the gym several times a week. "There's lots of good terrain to walk and bike and hike. You're close to the water, you're close to the mountains."

His advice for those seeking to emulate Seattle's healthy ways? "Enjoy the outdoors," Sherry said. "And get a dog."

## Warning: Labels may tickle your funny bone

The Associated Press

DETROIT — The sign on the toilet brush says it best: "Do not use for personal hygiene."

That admonition was the winner of an anti-lawsuit group's annual contest for the wackiest consumer warning label of the year.

The sponsor, Michigan Lawsuit Abuse Watch, says the goal is "to reveal how lawsuits, and concern about lawsuits, have created a need for common sense warnings on products."

The \$500 first prize went to Ed Gyetvai, of Oldcastle, Ontario, who submitted the toilet-brush label. A \$250 second prize went to Matt Johnson, of Naperville, Ill., for a label on a children's scooter

that said, "This product moves when used."

A \$100 third prize went to Ann Marie Taylor, of Camden, S.C., who submitted a warning from a digital thermometer that said, "Once used rectally, the thermometer should not be used orally."

The leader of a group that opposes the campaign to limit lawsuits admits that while some warning labels may seem stupid, even dumb warnings can do good.

"There are many cases of warning labels saving lives," said Joanne Doroshov, executive director of the Center for Justice and Democracy in New York. "It's much better to be very cautious ... than to be afraid of being made fun of by a tort reform group."

### Freight train crash kills 2

GRANITEVILLE, S.C. — A Norfolk Southern freight train carrying chlorine gas struck a parked train early Thursday, killing two people and injuring at least 170 others, authorities said.

Decontamination sites were treating people exposed to fumes. Most of the injured were treated for respiratory ailments and released, authorities said.

The wreck happened about 2:30 a.m. at an Avondale Mills facility in this textile town near the Georgia line. Thirteen cars derailed.

National Transportation Safety Board spokeswoman Lauren Peduzzi said the agency would send investigators to the scene.

From The Associated Press

# U.S. midsection recovering from winter storms

BY NATHANIEL HERNANDEZ  
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — A winter storm that put much of the Midwest in the dark inched its way east Thursday, spreading a treacherous mix of freezing rain and snow from the Great Lakes to New England.

The forecast called for up to 6 inches of snow by evening, considerably less than the amounts that fell Wednesday across the country's midsection. The same system had dumped up to 3 feet of snow in the mountains around Los Angeles earlier in the week.

The snow, sleet and freezing rain were part of a mass of cold air that dropped the temperature to a Jan. 5 record low of 39 below zero in Grand Forks, N.D. Embarrass, Minn., hit 43 below, the National Weather Service said.

Michigan recorded some of the heaviest snowfall, with towns up north digging out from under a foot. In Detroit, icy roads were blamed for a school bus accident that sent eight students to a hospital to be checked for injuries.

In Illinois, some northern locations got up to 9 inches of snow.

Up to 2 inches of rain fell in some southern counties, prompting flood warnings.

At Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, where more than 6 inches of snow fell, travelers coped with more than 600 canceled flights and three-hour delays. Twenty-one flights were canceled at the city's other airport, Midway, according to aviation officials.



ARIZONA DAILY SUN/UP

Alex Rhode, 8, and his dad Jeff, left, shovel snow from their roof Wednesday in Flagstaff, Ariz.

Weather-related traffic deaths included one each in Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota and Indiana. Icy roads may also have been a factor in accidents that killed two in Michigan and at least nine in Oklahoma, including a Tulsa woman and her four children.

A search resumed Wednesday for two people who had been in a car that was found washed into a creek in Missouri, and one man was still missing after an Arizona flash flood that killed another man.

School closings were reported from New Mexico to New Jersey, and hundreds of travelers were stranded across the country.

Thick ice coated roads, trees and utility poles across Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Oklahoma, Indiana and the Texas Panhandle.

# Microsoft offering users free antivirus software download

BY TED BRIDIS  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Microsoft Corp., whose popular Windows software is a frequent target for Internet viruses, is offering a free security program to remove the most dangerous infections from computers.

The program, with monthly updates, is a step toward plans by Microsoft to sell full-blown antivirus software later this year.

Microsoft said Thursday that consumers can download the new security program from the company's Web site — [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com) — and that updated versions will be offered automatically and free each month. It will be available starting Tuesday.

Also being offered is a free program to remove "spyware," a category of irritating programs that secretly monitor the activities of Internet users and can cause sluggish computer performance or pop-up ads.

Microsoft said the virus-removal program will not prevent computer infections and was never intended to replace the need for traditional antivirus software, such

as flagship products from McAfee Inc. or Symantec Corp.

But a senior Microsoft executive confirmed the company's plans to sell its own antivirus software, which would compete against programs from McAfee, Symantec and others.

Microsoft purchased a Romanian antivirus firm, GeCAD Software Srl, for an undisclosed amount in 2003. Industry rivals expect Microsoft's formal entry into the market as early as the spring.

"We will have a standalone antivirus product that is one of the things you can buy from Microsoft, but we're not announcing anything today," said Rich Kaplan, vice president for Microsoft's security business and technology unit.

The offers of free virus- and spyware-removal tools were intended to convince consumers that Microsoft is working to improve its software's security, Kaplan said.

Microsoft and other companies occasionally have offered separate programs to disinfect specific viruses. Microsoft promised its new removal tool will target a variety of infections and will be updated each month to recognize new ones.

# ATF issues alert for man inquiring to buy explosive ingredients

BY JOHN SOLOMON  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal authorities are looking for a man using a Middle Eastern name and possibly bogus construction credentials to try to purchase large quantities of an explosive ingredient used by Timothy McVeigh in the Oklahoma City bombing.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said there was no indication that terrorism was involved, but the agency was still checking information that came from a company in Canada that reported the attempted purchase as suspicious.

ATF was asking the fertilizer and explosives industries to help locate the man and to report any suspicious inquiries for the fertilizer chemical ammonium nitrate, which is used to make so-called fertilizer bombs.

"We're still running down leads. But we thought it would be prudent putting out an advisory to the fertilizer industry," said Tom Mangano, an ATF agent in Phoenix, where the investigation is centered.

The suspect also made several e-mail inquiries to vendors, seeking to buy between 500 to 1,000 metric tons of the explosive — a quantity larger than McVeigh used to bomb the Oklahoma City federal building in April 1995 but smaller

than amounts companies typically might buy in bulk for construction, explosives or farm work.

McVeigh used a combination of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil with a detonation cord to make his bomb, which killed more than 160 people.

The International Society of Explosives Engineers, based in Cleveland, sent an e-mail Wednesday alerting its members and asking them to call ATF in Phoenix to report any suspicious activity.

"ATF has recently been made aware of a suspicious attempt by an individual to purchase mass quantities of ammonium nitrate, specifically between 500 to 1,000 metric tons," the alert said.

"This individual, who uses a Middle Eastern name, purports to be a representative of a construction corporation. However, indications are that this is most likely false."

"The individual has previously made contact with other industry members via e-mail seeking the large amounts of 'fertilizer grade' ammonium nitrate," the alert said. Ammonium nitrate has been linked to several recent terror plots.

Less than a year ago, Homeland Security officials put out a warning about unsubstantiated intelligence suggesting that al-Qaida or other terrorists might try to smuggle ammonium nitrate bombs aboard public transportation venues such as trains, subways or buses.

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## IN THE WORLD

## Summit tackles health issues for survivors

BY MICHAEL C. CORDE

The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Amid warnings that the anticipated 150,000 death toll from the Asian tsunami disaster could surge sharply without fresh aid, world leaders staggered by the calamity sought Thursday to figure out the best way to help victims — and to prevent such a catastrophe from happening again.

As donors held an emergency summit in Indonesia, relief workers scrambled to move aid to areas of Sumatra, the Indonesian island hit hardest by the massive earthquake and giant waves that crashed ashore Dec. 26. Volunteers hauled sacks of rice and instant noodles into trucks en route to the hungry even as U.S. helicopters buzzed overhead on their way to deliver supplies to Sumatra's isolated communities.

A radical Islamic group set up a relief camp in Sumatra, raising fears of agitation against U.S. and Australian military teams gear-

**For more photos and stories on military relief operations, visit [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com)**

ing up to assist victims. The militants, once headed by an al-Qaida-linked terror chief and infamous for attacking the Christian minority on Indonesia's far-flung islands, insisted they would not interfere with foreign troops — as long as they kept strictly to humanitarian operations.

South Korean relief workers helping victims of Asia's tsunami disaster may become targets of terror attacks, the government warned Thursday.

South Korea sent a "request to related countries" to take security measures for the aid workers, said Lee Kyu-hyung, a spokesman of Seoul's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

He did not elaborate, and it was not immediately clear whether South Koreans were more at risk than aid workers from other countries.

World leaders conferred in Jakarta about how to transform one of the largest aid packages ever assembled — nearly \$4 billion in pledges — into food for the hungry and shelter for the homeless. U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan urged nations to immediately come forward with the billions they've promised and to break with past practices of promising much and delivering little.

"The disaster was so brutal, so quick, and so far-reaching, that we are still struggling to comprehend it," Annan said. "We will never know the exact magnitude of how many men, women and children perished on 26 December."

Australia leads the world with a total aid pledge of \$810 million, followed by Japan and the United States.

President Bush personally contributed \$10,000 from his personal funds to the relief effort, his spokesman said Wednesday.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said America would take a wait-and-see attitude before pledging more cash to tsunami relief.

"These are not insignificant numbers," Powell told reporters. The World Health Organization said that if basic needs — particularly access to safe drinking water — were not restored by the



Tsunami victims clean the destroyed area around their old homes at the eastern coastal village of Katankudi, near Batticaloa, Sri Lanka, on Thursday. Getting aid to millions of tsunami victims is a race against time, and nations must immediately come forward with the money they pledged, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Thursday during an emergency summit held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

end of this week, infectious diseases could kill tens of thousands. The confirmed death toll in the region stands at 140,000, and senior U.N. officials have predicted it will reach 150,000.

Epidemics could claim a far higher number.

"We now estimate that as many as 150,000 people are at extreme risk if a major disease outbreak in the affected areas occurs," said WHO Director-General Dr. Lee Jong-wook.

For the moment, though, the threat of an outbreak of waterborne disease is being held in check by medical aid flooding into the region, U.N. officials said. While there are cases of diarrhea, respiratory and skin diseases and mental trauma, there have been no major outbreaks of disease in the devastated Aceh region, the

U.N. health agency said Thursday.

But officials are concerned that unless this aid is sustained, the system could collapse. Rushing water purification tablets to survivors and building rudimentary toilets remain the focus of efforts to fend off deadly disease outbreaks in devastated communities.

The U.N. health organization is warning that hygiene in the hundreds of refugee camps that have sprung up around the region is the biggest disease concern. An estimated 3 million to 5 million people are living in refugee camps across the tsunami-stricken area. In Sri Lanka, aid workers are digging ditches at camps to create latrines.

Associated Press Writers Emma Ross in Jakarta, Chris Brummitt and Dennis Gray in Banda Aceh, Dilip Ganguly in Sri Lanka, and Leyla Linton at the United Nations contributed to this report.

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## Relief effort costing U.S. military \$6 million daily

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is spending about \$6 million a day to operate the fleet of ships, aircraft and other military resources that have joined the tsunami relief effort in south Asia, a spokesman said Thursday.

Army Lt. Col. Gary Keck, a Pentagon public affairs officer, said the \$6 million per day covers a U.S. contingent of 13,000 military personnel, of which 12,000 are aboard 17 Navy ships in the region hit by the Dec. 26 earthquake and resulting tsunami.

The U.S. military's contribution to the humanitarian effort is possibly its largest in history; it is separate from the \$350 million that President Bush has pledged in U.S. government assistance.

The latest ship to join the effort was the USNS Mercy, a hospital

ship that set sail Wednesday evening from San Diego. It is initially staffed to support 250 patient beds but could be expanded to 1,000 beds with additional medical staff. The humanitarian organization Project HOPE has expressed interest in providing medical staff for the Mercy, which will take about 30 days to reach south Asia.

The biggest share of the estimated \$6 million-a-day cost is for the USS Abraham Lincoln battle group. Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, has said it costs about \$2.5 million a day to operate the Lincoln group, which has 17 helicopters aboard.

Another major force in the area is Expeditionary Strike Group 5, led by the USS Bonhomme Richard, an amphibious assault ship that arrived Thursday off the northwest coast of Sumatra with 1,300 Marines aboard.

# U.N. official critical of U.S. relief effort

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — The U.N. official coordinating relief efforts on Sumatra island complained Thursday that the U.S. military's aid mission was failing to coordinate and provide critical information to other relief organizations struggling to help survivors of the tsunami.

Michael Elmquist said that while American helicopters were speeding relief sup-

plies to villages isolated by the Dec. 26 disaster, their crews were not spending enough time on the ground to assess survivors' needs.

"They don't stop their engines. They're on the ground for five minutes," Elmquist told reporters in the provincial capital of Banda Aceh, on the hard-hit northern tip of Sumatra.

The U.S. relief operation is one of the largest in its military history and has won

praise for reaching villages devastated by the earthquake and tsunami, which washed out roads and destroyed bridges. But Elmquist said he couldn't be sure what the U.S. helicopters were delivering.

"I don't know what they had on board," Elmquist said. "We don't get any feedback."

The United Nations has only had "brief contact" with the American military, Elmquist said, adding that he would "like to see it intensified over the next few days."

The comments shed new light on some of the complications plaguing the efforts to get critical supplies to survivors of the Dec. 26 disaster, which left nearly 100,000 Indonesians dead and hundreds of thousands homeless.

Elmquist said that relief officials planned to start work Friday on building at least four large refugee centers that could hold up to 8,500 people. He said he hoped the first camps could be opened within a week.

## UNICEF: Gangs may prey on Indonesian orphans

By BETH GARDNER

The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Fearing child-trafficking gangs will exploit the chaos of the tsunami disaster, Indonesia has placed restrictions on youngsters leaving the country, ordered police commanders to be on the lookout for trafficking and posted special guards in refugee camps.

UNICEF and other child welfare groups warn that the gangs — who are well-established in Indonesia — may well be whisking orphaned children into trafficking networks, selling them into forced labor or even sexual slavery in wealthier neighboring countries such as Malaysia and Singapore.

On Wednesday, UNICEF spokesman John Budd, based in Banda Aceh, said the group had two confirmed reports of attempted child trafficking, but he did not immediately provide any further details.

Such trafficking, if true, would vastly deepen the suffering of children already struck hard by the Dec. 26 massive earthquake and tsunami. Indonesia estimates that 35,000 children on Sumatra island's Aceh province lost one or both parents to the disaster.

Fueling the suspicions, many



A child orphaned by the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami cries as aid workers escort the baby into the Halm Airport terminal on Sunday in Jakarta, Indonesia, for treatment. Criminal gangs are taking advantage of the chaos in Sumatra's tsunami-stricken Aceh province to whisk orphaned children into trafficking networks, selling them into forced labor or even sexual slavery, UNICEF says. Hoping to prevent widespread smuggling of vulnerable youngsters, the government has banned Acehese children under 16 from leaving Indonesia.

Indonesians have received mobile phone text messages this week inviting them to adopt orphans from Aceh. The police are investigating the messages.

It's unclear whether such messages are pranks, real adoption offers or linked in some way to traf-

ficking networks.

But child welfare experts warn the messages could be a sign that children are being removed from the province, reducing their chances of being reunited with relatives or surviving parents who may be searching for them.

"I'm sure it's happening," said Birgitte Lund-Henriksen, child protection chief in UNICEF's Indonesia office. "It's a perfect opportunity for these gangs to move in."

Officials concede that so far they have little hard evidence of specific cases, but say the aftermath of a

natural disaster is a perfect breeding ground for such traffic.

In Thailand, Foreign Minister Surakiat Sathirathai said Tuesday that his government was working closely with hospitals to prevent human trafficking gangs from taking advantage of the situation, although he stressed that there was no firm indication that they were.

The threat of trafficking appears more serious in Indonesia than any of the other southern Asian nations hit by the tsunami, probably because the scale of death and destruction is greatest here and the territory more remote. UNICEF director Carol Bellamy told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday.

Making matters worse, the hardest-hit area in Indonesia — Aceh — is not far from the port city of Medan and nearby island of Batam, which are well-known transit points for gangs shipping children and teenagers out of Indonesia.

"This is a situation that lends itself to this kind of exploitation," Bellamy said. "Our concern here is ... whether these children are frankly turned into child slaves, if you will, or abused and exploited."

## Marines on way to Iraq welcome aid mission

By ERIC TALMADGE

The Associated Press

ABOARD THE USS BONHOMME RICHARD — When Lance Corp. Keith Delatorre boarded this warship in San Diego a month ago, he thought he was on his way to Iraq. Now, he's loading up his gear for a very different mission — bringing badly needed aid to Indonesians isolated by the tsunami that battered coastlines along the Indian Ocean.

Delatorre, who celebrated his 22nd birthday Wednesday, said he was happy for the new orders, which came down two days after the disaster struck as the USS Bonhomme Richard was making a port call at the Pacific island of Guam.

"We just need to get the mission done," he said, sweating in the heat of the ship's hull. "A lot of guys would say they want to go right to Iraq. But I'm kind of glad. There's not much chance of dying here."

The Bonhomme Richard and another warship brimming with Marines, helicopters and heavy equipment arrived off the shores of northwest Sumatra on Thursday to begin its part of what is possibly the largest U.S. humanitarian aid operation ever.

"We were training for Iraq, so getting diverted to a humanitarian mission is like night and day," said Delatorre, of Pleasant Hill, Calif.

The Bonhomme Richard, with 1,300 Marines aboard, and the smaller USS Duluth are joining the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier and its battle group in the relief effort for the northwest Sumatra province of Aceh, where as many as 100,000 people are believed to have been killed by the Dec. 26 catastrophe. Another ship, the USS Rushmore, was also on its way.

The Marines are planning to set up farther south than the Lincoln to reach villages there that may not yet have made contact with the outside world.

Their arrival strongly boosts the relief efforts. Along with dozens of helicopters, the ships carry large landing craft that float on cushions of air and can come ashore on virtually any kind of beach. Once ashore, the Marines could offer the manpower and equipment needed to build shelters, clear roads and airstrips, and distribute clean drinking water.

Working out the details of the operation has been delicate, however.

Though originally assigned to spearhead relief efforts on Sri Lanka, the Bonhomme Richard was diverted to Sumatra after the government in Colombo scaled down its relief request. An intensive airlift by helicopters from this ship to bring supplies out of the overwhelmed airport in Medan on Wednesday raised concerns from local officials that the military was crowding out commercial flights.



U.S. Marines of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit embarked on the USS Bonhomme Richard prepare pallets of relief aid to be airlifted from Medan, Indonesia, for distribution in the country. The USS Bonhomme Richard is participating in Operation Unified Assistance, providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations to tsunami victims.

## Mandela's son dies at 54

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Former President Nelson Mandela announced Thursday that his eldest son died Thursday of AIDS-related complications, saying the only way to fight the disease's stigma was to speak openly about it.

Makgatho Mandela, an attorney, was admitted to Linkfield Park Clinic last month. He died at age 54.

"Let us give publicity to HIV/AIDS and not hide it, because the only way of making it appear to be a normal illness, just like TB, like cancer, is always to come out and say somebody has died because of HIV," Mandela said at a news conference at his residence.

Mandela said he had been unaware of his son's illness when he began lobbying for more openness about the pandemic some three years ago.

More than 5 million of South Africa's 45 million people are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, more than in any other country. An estimated 600 die of AIDS-related complications every day.

Last year, Makgatho Mandela's wife, Zondi, died of pneumonia. The couple had three sons. A fourth son, Manda Mandela, is the only child from an earlier marriage.

## Black ice closes runways

INNSBRUCK, Austria — Authorities shut down the airport in the western Austrian city of Innsbruck on Thursday after black ice slicked runways, making takeoffs and landings dangerous. No accidents were reported.

Air travelers were being shuttled by bus from Innsbruck to Salzburg for alternative flights, officials said.

Airlines planned to reopen the Innsbruck airport, heavily used by ski tourists, later in the day.

icy highways for blamed for numerous traffic accidents across much of Austria, where police also closed a section of the key A12 highway, local media reported. The alpine province of Tyrol was particularly hampered by black ice after temperatures warmed to just above freezing overnight.

## Lottery winner still unknown

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — The winner of Denmark's largest ever lottery jackpot hasn't yet come forward to claim the prize, the state-owned lottery organizer said Thursday.

The gambler won \$5.8 million on the weekly Wednesday lottery.

The six-number winning ticket was bought at a Copenhagen newsstand on Wednesday, Dansk Tipstjeneste Group said.

Lotto sales in Denmark total about \$533 million, accounting for more than 60 percent of Denmark's gaming market.

## Canadian prescription drugs

TORONTO — Internet sales of prescription drugs to U.S. consumers could be banned by Canada if a proposal being drafted by health officials is approved, changes that would essentially kill a \$700 million industry that has become increasingly popular with underinsured patients in search of cheaper medicine.

The issue has become touchy politically for President Bush, whose administration has argued that reimporting U.S.-made drugs from Canada would put consumers at risk because U.S. regulators could not guarantee their safety. The pharmaceutical industry, which donated heavily to Bush's re-election campaign, vehemently opposes reimporting drugs, a practice that undercuts their U.S. sales.

From The Associated Press

# Abbas: Sharon partner in peace

## Presidential candidate hopes talks will resume over Sunday vote

BY MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH

The Associated Press

NABLUS, West Bank — Palestinian presidential candidate Mahmoud Abbas on Thursday described Israeli leader Ariel Sharon as a partner for peace talks and said he hopes negotiations will resume soon after weekend elections.

On a campaign stop in the West Bank's largest city, Abbas reached out to Israel, after a series of hard-line speeches and appearances with Palestinian gunmen in recent days. Israeli officials welcomed the conciliatory statements.

Also Thursday, Israel's army chief announced that he'll expel officers and soldiers who refuse to participate in a planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank. The warning

came after 34 reserve officers signed a letter urging soldiers not to participate in the pullout.

Abbas, the front-runner in Sunday's election, had come under criticism in Israel this week for a string of incendiary speeches.

But in Nablus, he took a softer approach, criticizing attacks on Israel as counterproductive and calling for a resumption of peace talks with Sharon based on the "road map" plan.

"After the elections, we will start negotiations," Abbas said at a news conference.

Ariel Sharon is an elected leader and we will negotiate with him. We will put the road map on the table and say that we are ready to implement it completely."

The internationally backed road map, which envisions an independent Palestin-

ian state alongside Israel, has been stalled for more than a year.

Israel refused to negotiate with the previous Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, accusing him of involvement in terrorism.

Arafat died in a French hospital on Nov. 11.

Abbas is eager to resume peace talks. But on the campaign trail, he has had to overcome his image as a dull bureaucrat and build support among the many Palestinian constituencies, including the young members of the powerful militant groups.

Meanwhile, in fresh Gaza violence, Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Hamas militant who had infiltrated the greenhouses of the Jewish settlement of Ganei Tal. The militant, who was armed with hand grenades, an assault rifle and an explosives belt, opened fire on soldiers who were carrying out a routine patrol along the perimeter of the settlement, the army said.

# Orthodox Christians prepare for Christmas

BY MIKE ECKEL

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The head of Russia's Orthodox Church offered blessings and prayers on the eve of the Christmas Thursday, noting in his traditional holiday greetings that 2004 was a difficult year for Russia.

Patriarch Alexy II also addressed Christians worldwide and people of other faiths, saying "Let us work together for the sake of peace and the prosperity of our peoples."

The patriarch made reference in his greetings to the string of terrorist attacks that struck Russia in August and September, including the Sept. 1-3 hostage-taking at the school in Beslan in which more than 340 people died, nearly half of them children.

"Flouting everything that is holy in their impious madness, terrorists raised their hands against children. The deaths of innocent victims has become our common grief and filled our hearts with pain and sorrow," he said.

"But at the same time, the horrible tragedy has shown that moral ideals are alive in the people: facing death, many people manifested high examples of sacrificial love for their neighbors, laying down their lives for their friends, as the Holy Scripture

says," the patriarch said.

Christmas falls on Jan. 7 for Orthodox Christians in the Holy Land, Russia and other Eastern Orthodox churches that use the old Julian calendar instead of the 16th-century Gregorian calendar adopted by Catholics and Protestants and commonly used in secular life around the world.

Other Orthodox Christians celebrated the holiday on Dec. 25, including Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew — the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox — and the church in Greece and the Americas.

The patriarch met Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin also Thursday, where he received well-wishes from the Russian leader. Putin spoke at length about the humanitarian aid and rescue efforts Russia has provided to Asian countries devastated by the Dec. 26 tsunami.

"I want to again wish you a Merry Christmas, happiness and health to you and all the Orthodox Christians, to all the people who will be observing this holy holiday," Putin told the patriarch.

Putin was scheduled to travel to Tver, about 100 miles northwest of Moscow, later Thursday for holiday services.

The Russian Orthodox Church, which



The head of Russia's Orthodox Church Patriarch Alexy II and President Vladimir Putin meet Thursday on the eve of the Orthodox Christmas at the Kremlin in Moscow. The patriarch received the good wishes from the Russian leader.

was all but banned during the Soviet Union, has experienced a major resurgence since the 1991, with an estimated two-thirds of Russia's 144 million people believed to be observant.

## Three Kings Day in Spain



Ensign Ernest Padilla, a U.S. naval officer assigned to Naval Station Rota, Spain, throws candies to children on Wednesday during the Three Kings parade in Rota, Spain. Three Kings Day — which celebrates the visit of the three wise men to baby Jesus — is a national holiday in Spain. Every year in Rota, an American is selected to play the part of one of the three kings.

SCOTT SCHONAUER  
Stars and Stripes







## Agencies bid for reef

**CA** VENTURA — Federal and local agencies want to build an artificial reef between Mussel Shoals and Sealcliff to combat beach erosion.

The Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment, known as BEACON, and the Army Corps of Engineers applied to the California Coastal Commission to build the \$2 million reef at the old Mobil Oil Piers site.

The commission could schedule a public hearing soon. If the project is approved, construction is possible as early as this summer.

## 'Dixie' causes stir

**WI** MADISON — A high school band's performance of an Elvis Presley hit during the Senate's inaugural ceremony has drawn a complaint from a newly elected member because it included a version of "Dixie."

The Richland Center High School band played a version of "An American Trilogy" at the Capitol — a song that mixes "Dixie" with "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and the spiritual "All My Trials."

To many blacks, "Dixie" is a symbol of racism and slavery. Sen. Spencer Cogges, who is black, said he was shocked to hear the strains of the Southern anthem and complained in a letter to Senate Majority Leader Dale Schultz.

"Whether the slight was intentional or not, the selection was not appropriate," he wrote. "It is unfortunate that this special day was marred by such an unnecessary event."

Schultz said he wasn't aware of every musical selection the band prepared for the event and said he would apologize. "If Sen. Cogges felt offended, I would want to extend my hand in apology," he said.

## Free ride to jail

**LA** SLIDELL — A tourist who called 911 to demand a ride to the bus station instead got a lift to jail.

The St. Tammany Parish sheriff's office said James Brown of St. Louis called from a pay phone and threatened to kill someone if he didn't get a ride to the bus station. When deputies arrived, officials said they found the man intoxicated and belligerent. He was booked on charges of misuse of 911.

## Adirondack protection

**NY** ALBANY — The state agreed to protect 104,000 acres of northern Adirondack timberlands from development and provide public recreational access, Gov. George Pataki said. The parcels in Clinton and Franklin counties represent the holdings of Domtar Industries in the 6-million-acre Adirondack Park.

The deal is expected to add 20,000 acres directly to state forests and limited access to another 84,000 acres for hiking, snowmobiling and some ATV use.

## Hispanic baby boom

**AZ** PHOENIX — More than 39,000 babies were born to



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Hispanic women in Arizona in 2003, compared with about 38,800 babies born to Anglo women that year, according to state statistics.

The numbers reflect the state's rapidly growing Hispanic population.

"Every demographer I've talked to thinks the majority of Arizona's population will be Hispanic by 2035 or 2045," said Loui Olivas, a professor at Arizona State University.

## Controlling wild wolves

**ID** BOISE — Idaho and Montana will get more authority to manage gray wolves under a new rule adopted by the federal government, wildlife officials announced.

The rule, which takes effect Feb. 2, gives the states and private landowners more control in curbing wolf attacks on livestock, domestic animals and wild game herds.

Ed Bangs, wolf recovery team leader for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said the new rule would especially help private landowners by allowing wolves to be killed without prior written approval if ranchers can prove the animals are harassing livestock.

## Fake nurse investigated

**TX** DALLAS — A man who worked without a nursing license at a retirement home is under investigation by state regula-



## Arizona snow angel

Alister Marshall, 4, makes a snow angel in Thorpe Park in Flagstaff, Ariz. Marshall came to Flagstaff with his family from Phoenix to play in the snow.

tors after his 10-year health care career began unraveling through a tip.

Administrators at Brentwood Place nursing home told The Dallas Morning News that they were operating with representatives from the Medicaid fraud control unit of the Texas attorney general's office in the investigation of David Wayne Rhodes.

## Skier dies on slopes

**VT** KILLINGTON — A 27-year-old Massachusetts man died after falling on one of Killington Resort's most difficult trails and then sliding out of control into trees.

Vermont State Police said Andrew Begley of Cambridge, Mass., apparently lost control while skiing on the Double Dipper trail.

Lt. David Covell said that Begley slid "a significant distance," going off the Double Dipper trail through a roped-off area where Killington snow guns were stored and into the Big Dipper trail before a tree stopped him.

"It looks possible that he may have collided with some equipment in that initial closed area he entered," Covell said.

## Justice sues colleagues

**OK** OKLAHOMA CITY — A member of Oklahoma's highest court got passed over for chief justice, and now he's suing his eight colleagues because he thinks they skipped him because of his age.

Justice Marian P. Opala, 83, filed the lawsuit in federal district court, charging he was discriminated against when his fellow justices changed a rule to allow the chief justice to serve consecutive terms. The post had been rotated every two years.

The rule change in November allowed Chief Justice Joseph M. Watt to succeed himself. Opala would have been in line to lead the court.

In his lawsuit, Opala described himself as in good health and of sound mind. He said his age was "a significant factor" in being passed over for chief justice, a post that carries with it "ceremonial duties" and a bigger paycheck. A justice earns an annual salary of \$107,000, the chief justice \$110,000.

## West Nile cases down

**NM** SANTA FE — New Mexico had 88 confirmed cases of West Nile virus in 2004, including four deaths, according to the state Department of Health.

The total was far less than the 209 cases confirmed in 2003 when four elderly people died of the infection.

## Bobcat job boost

**ND** BISMARCK — Gov. John Hoeven's State of the State speech to open the legislative session came with an announcement that the Bobcat company plans to add 100 jobs in Bismarck.

The North Dakota company makes skid-steer loaders and other heavy equipment. Bobcat employs more than 2,600 people in the state and has an annual payroll of more than \$1 billion, Hoeven said.



## Mother Nature at work

A water spout appears just off the coast of Palos Verdes, Calif., during a break in a winter storm.



## Through the fog

A train travels in the fog across a bridge spanning the Arkansas River in Fort Smith, Ark. The warmer air temperatures hovering over the cooler water created the foggy mist.



## Wading in the water

Audrey Morrison, left, and her sister, Britney, play in the water just off shore at Lake Nicol in Tuscaloosa, Ala. The outing started as a fishing trip but turned into wading in the lake when the fishing line became snagged. The two were accompanied by their father, Jerrold Morrison, and grandmother Katherine Morrison.



## Braving the winter

A woman braces against the cold and blowing snow as she walks down 17th Street in downtown Denver.



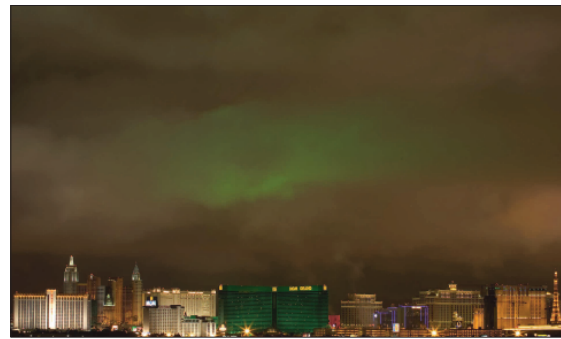
## Letting off steam

Steam rises from Mount St. Helens in Washington state.



## Later, gator

Todd Hardwick, right, from Pesky Critters, along with officers from Fish and Wildlife and a crew of firefighters remove a large alligator from Wagner Creek alongside Cedars Medical Center in Miami.



## Vegas afterglow

Lights from hotel-casinos on the Strip reflect on low-passing clouds during a storm in Las Vegas.

## Historic hat purchased

**AK** ANCHORAGE — A rare spruce root hat adorned with beads and sea lion whiskers will stay in the state after its purchase by two Alaska museums.

The Alutiq Museum of Kodiak and the Anchorage Museum of History and Art combined to buy the Alutiq spruce root hunting hat from a Juneau family, which had offered the artifact Dec. 6 at a Bonhams and Butterfields Auction in San Francisco. The price was \$160,250.

"This is the first one that is going to be here in Alaska," said Sven Hanksen Jr., executive director of the Alutiq Museum.

The Alutiq people traditionally lived between Southcentral Alaska and the Alaska Peninsula. Most were on Kodiak Island, America's second-largest island after Hawaii.

## Asbestos closes school

**HI** HONOLULU — Students at King Intermediate School along Windward Oahu are going to get an even longer break from classes than previously expected, public school officials said.

The school was closed Dec. 15, three days before winter recess was set to begin, so campus buildings could be cleaned of asbestos.

The school was to reopen after winter vacation and intersession. But state Schools Superintendent Patricia Hamamoto said inclement weather delays testing results and any subsequent cleaning that could be necessary.

Classes at King Intermediate are now set to resume Jan. 13th, she said.

## Don't forget the horses

**KY** LOUISVILLE — A group of Kentucky horse breeders and farm owners has launched a billboard campaign showing how tenuous the state's claim as the horse capital could become.

Billboards along a stretch of Interstate 64 in Louisville proclaim, "Welcome to New York, Horse Capital of the World."

The Kentucky Equine Education Project is paying for eight to 10 billboards in Louisville and Lexington and several more in Frankfort over the next few months.

Clara Horn Shadwick, KEEEP's executive director, said the billboards are part of the group's goal of educating the state about the economic importance of horses in Kentucky.

"It's an extension of KEEEP's educational phase, which is to make the point pretty forcefully and bluntly that our state can't take the industry for granted," she said.

## Bartender held hostage

**NY** GOWANDA — A western New York man said to be grieving the death of a family member took a bartender hostage and opened fire on police during a four-hour standoff that ended only after he passed out drunk, authorities said.

Dale Covert was facing a charge of attempted murder after firing a single round at a Gowanda police officer, State Police Maj. Michael Manning said.

Police responded to the Palm Gardens restaurant lounge 30 miles south of Buffalo around 3

p.m. after receiving a report of a man brandishing a gun inside the establishment, where Covert was holding a female bartender.

Shortly after 6:30 p.m., the bartender emerged from the bar, unharmed. Covert, who was drinking heavily, then passed out, Manning said.

## Politicians admit bribe

**TX** BROWNSVILLE — Two former Willacy County commissioners pleaded guilty to accepting bribes for their votes on federal prison contracts.

Jose Jimenez, 67, of Brownsville, and Israel Tamez, 58, of Raymondville, waived indictment and admitted accepting more than \$10,000 each from companies competing for work on the Willacy County Adult Correctional Center. The \$14.5 million prison was being built to house federal inmates.

Federal prosecutors say the men accepted the bribes between June 2000 and March 2003.

Both men are free on \$50,000 personal recognizance bonds. They have agreed to cooperate with an ongoing investigation by the FBI, Texas Rangers, and Willacy County Sheriff's Department.

Each faces up to 20 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine at their April 11 sentencing.

## Help for drug addicts

**KY** PIKEVILLE — Gov. Ernie Fletcher unveiled a \$9.5 million initiative to help pay for the construction and operation of 10 recovery centers for drug addicts.

The effort would focus on homeless people, Fletcher said. He expects two of the centers to be in eastern Kentucky, where police are combating what has been called an epidemic of prescription drug abuse.

## N.J. losing millionaires

**NJ** NEWARK — The number of millionaires in New Jersey declined, an annual report showed.

The report said 8,300 Garden State residents reported taxable income of \$1 million or more in 2002, the fewest since 1998 and far short of the peak of 12,365 posted in 2000.

The report also showed that total income in New Jersey declined for the second straight year.

## Musket shoot will go on

**NC** CHARLOTTE — A teenager was killed during a rural town's New Year's tradition of firing vintage black-powder muskets into the air, but town officials declared that the centuries-old ritual would continue to be celebrated.

During the revelry, a rifle exploded and pieces of the barrel struck 18-year-old Matthew K. Shook in the side of the head.

"There's no effort in place here to end the practice," Mayor Bob Austell said in a telephone interview. "This is something that's been going on in Cherryville for more than 200 years. We have grandsons firing off muskets that once belonged to their grandfathers."

Austell conceded, however, it was time to review safety standards for the "New Year's Shoot" in Cherryville, a town of 5,400 about 40 miles west of Charlotte.

Stories and photos from wire service

## AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil>

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2005							
(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Stanley	Movie: <i>Remembrance</i> (1996) Eva Lerner, Angie Dickinson. A woman makes a political statement and finds tragedy.	Dr. Phil	Jacquard!	Nightline	PGA Golf Mercedes Championships - First Round from the Plantation Course at Kapalua in Kapalua, Hawaii. (Taped)	30-Minute Movies	Jacquard!
9:30 Sagar-Stamescat [E]		18:40 Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Headline News		Easy Entertainment-Chiarolo	Headline News
10:00 Arthur [E]		9:30 Guiding Light	ESPNNews	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Decorating Cents	ESPNNews
10:30 Reading Rainbow [E]		10:40 Movie *** "Mullighy" (1996) Michael Lerner, Scottie Craven. A comedy about a man's life.	Advisory Board	King of the Hill		The Look for Less	Pacific Report
11:00 Sagar-Stamescat [E]		11:17 General Hospital	King of the Hill	The O'Reilly Factor		6 News Live	King of the Hill
12:00 The Explorer [E]		12:00 The Explorer [E]	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'	Primetime Thursday	SportsCenter	The King of Queens	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
12:30 The Wiggles' Friends		12:30 The Wiggles' Friends	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'			King of the Hill	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
13:00 The Wiggles' Friends		13:00 The Wiggles' Friends	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'			King of the Hill	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
13:30 Dragon Tales [E]		13:30 Dragon Tales [E]	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'			King of the Hill	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
14:00 Blue's Clues		14:00 Blue's Clues	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'			King of the Hill	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
14:30 Barney & Friends Exercise		14:30 Barney & Friends Exercise	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'			King of the Hill	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
15:00 Kinnest Home Videos		15:00 Kinnest Home Videos	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'			King of the Hill	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
15:30 Full House		15:30 Full House	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'			King of the Hill	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
16:00 Pokemon		16:00 Pokemon	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'			King of the Hill	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh! "Mind Game"		16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh! "Mind Game"	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'			King of the Hill	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
17:00 Doug [E]		17:00 Doug [E]	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'			King of the Hill	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
17:30 The Fairly OddParents		17:30 The Fairly OddParents	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'			King of the Hill	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
18:00 Rugrats		18:00 Rugrats	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'			King of the Hill	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
19:00 All Grow Up		19:00 All Grow Up	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'			King of the Hill	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
19:30 Dave the Barbarian		19:30 Dave the Barbarian	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'			King of the Hill	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
20:00 Danny Phantom		20:00 Danny Phantom	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'			King of the Hill	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
21:00 That's So Raven		21:00 That's So Raven	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'			King of the Hill	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
21:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		21:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'			King of the Hill	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
22:00 Switched		22:00 Switched	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'			King of the Hill	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
22:30 Radio Free Roscoe		22:30 Radio Free Roscoe	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'			King of the Hill	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
23:00 The Cosby Show		23:00 The Cosby Show	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'			King of the Hill	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
23:30 Home Improvement		23:30 Home Improvement	Meet '70s Show 'im a Boy'			King of the Hill	That '70s Show 'im a Boy'
SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2005							
00:00 Ashanti Real Monsters		11:30 Movie "Friday" (1995)	11:30 Late Show	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	All Grow Up
00:30 Rock Power		12:40 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	Headline News	Powerful Girls!	NBC Nightly News	Dave the Barbarian	Dave the Barbarian
1:00 SpongeBob SquarePants		1:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NFL Live	Drake & Josh 'Guitar'	ABC World News Tonight	Danny Phantom	Danny Phantom
1:30 Rugrats Sixty Squares		1:30 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Shootaround	Drake & Josh 'Guitar'	CBS Evening News	Drake & Josh 'Guitar'	Drake & Josh 'Guitar'
2:00 All Grow Up		2:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
2:30 Dave the Barbarian		2:30 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
3:00 Danny Phantom		3:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
3:30 Drake & Josh 'Guitar'		3:30 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
4:00 That's So Raven		4:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
4:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		4:30 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
5:00 Seaside Street [E]		5:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
5:30 Barney & Friends [E]		5:30 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
6:00 Blue's Clues		6:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
6:30 The Fairly OddParents		6:30 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
7:00 The Fairly OddParents		7:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
7:30 Amazing Animal Videos		7:30 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
8:00 Lilo & Stitch [E]		8:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
8:30 Teamo Supremo [E]		8:30 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
9:00 Stinky Smack! Part 1 of 2		9:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
9:30 Kim Possible: Motor Ed [E]		9:30 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
10:00 Teen Titans		10:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
10:30 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles		10:30 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
11:00 Dragonball GT		11:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
11:30 Justice League		11:30 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
12:00 Teen Kids News [E]		12:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
12:30 Teletubbies [E]		12:30 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
13:00 Trading Space: Boy-Girl		13:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
13:30 Scout's Safari "Great Cat"		13:30 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
14:00 Shunkin TV Dog for a Day		14:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
15:00 The Most Extreme "Body Parts" Appendages		15:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
15:30 The Legend of Zelda: The Wind Waker		15:30 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
16:00 Journeys		16:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
17:00 Doug "Doug's Pail Best"		17:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
17:30 Rock Power		17:30 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
18:00 The Fairly OddParents		18:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
19:00 Movies *** "Shrek" (2001)		19:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
19:30 Fantasy Videos of Mike Myers, Mike Myers		19:30 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
20:00 Comedy-Dance "North" (1994)		20:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
20:30 Comedy-Dance "North" (1994)		20:30 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
21:00 My So-Called Life "Dancing in the Streets"		21:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
22:30 The Simpsons		22:30 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven
23:00 The Simpsons		23:00 Movie *** "From Here to Eternity" (1955, Drama)	NBA Basketball Philadelphia	The Mummy	The NewHour With Jimmy Kimmel	Boston Public 'Chapter Forty-two'	That's So Raven



## FACES

## Ashlee Simpson booted at Orange Bowl

Ashlee Simpson's Orange Bowl halftime performance was a lemon, according to the 72,000-plus Miami crowd. The 20-year-old singer received a disreputable chorus of boos following a performance of her song "La La." "You make me wanna scream," she sang before the audience jeered.

Simpson was among a trio of half-time performers Tuesday night in a game that saw Southern California overwhelm Oklahoma 55-19. The camera cut away from her face as the booing began.

The negative vocal reaction came months after Simpson's performance on NBC's "Saturday Night Live," which revealed she used background vocal tracks. The mishap was later attributed to acid reflux disease.



Simpson

However, the Orange Bowl crowd did have a reason to cheer: The Walt Disney Co. gave a theme park ticket to every fan. The giveaway, a promotion that could cost as much as \$4.3 million if all the tickets are used, is in honor of the 50th anniversary of its Disneyland park in California.

## Dick Clark coming along after stroke

A month after his stroke, Dick Clark remains hospitalized in good spirits while working with rehabilitation specialists.



Clark

The "American Bandstand" icon watched Regis Philbin host "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve 2005" from his hospital bed and said "he enjoyed the show and thought Regis did a wonderfully professional job," Clark publicist Paul Sherin said Wednesday.

As promised, Clark kissed his wife, **Kari**, at midnight, the spokesman added.

Clark, 75, was hospitalized at an undisclosed Burbank, Calif., hospital on Dec. 6 after suffering a mild stroke. Sherin wouldn't disclose specifics.

There was no word on when Clark would go home. During the ABC-TV New Year's Eve show, fans held up "Get Well Dick!" signs. Celebrities, including **Madonna**, **John Travolta**, **Janet Jackson** and others, were shown on videotape expressing best wishes.

## Bush up, Beckham down in Britain

The most powerful man in Britain is American President **Bush**, while soccer star **David Beckham's** sway over British society is in free fall, a men's magazine said Wednesday.

Bush tied with Prime Minister **Tony Blair** for first place in the list drawn up by the British edition of **Q** magazine.

Blair has long faced criticism that he simply follows Bush's orders as his "poodle," but **Q** claimed that re-election has given Bush an even bigger say in British life. Last year, the U.S. president didn't make the top 100. Beckham plummeted from eighth to 23rd place, reflecting a turbulent year for the England soccer captain in which "the wheels seem to have come off Brand Beckham," **Q** said.

His marriage to **Victoria Beckham**, a former Spice Girl, hit the headlines in April when a former personal aide, **Rebecca Loos**, claimed she and the soccer star had had a 10-day affair. He dismissed the claim as "ludicrous" and "absurd."

## Price still right for Bob Barker

**Bob Barker** has agreed to continue as host of "The Price Is Right" for a record 34th season, **CBS** announced.

"I was considering retiring this year and going into bodybuilding with the thought in mind of becoming governor of California," the 81-year-old Emmy-winning game-show host joked.

"But I decided to instead stay with the body I have and the job I have."

**Barbara Bloom**, senior vice president, daytime programs, said Barker and "The Price Is Right" are cornerstones of **CBS** daytime.

"We're thrilled that Bob has agreed to continue for another year, no doubt delighting his legions of fans across the country," Bloom said in a statement Monday.



Barker

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

# A calculated risk-taker



## Michael Weatherly gave up the safety net of college to pursue career as an actor

BY LUAINA LEE

Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service

**HOLLYWOOD** — When actor Michael Weatherly was 12 years old, his parents sent him away to camp called "Camp Challenge." His mother wanted to toughen him up, he says.

"It was a three-week duration and I had to canoe, fight, build my own ax, learn to read a topographic map, compass and we had something called '24-hour survival' where they left us in the woods alone for 24 hours and you had to find food, build a lean-to. That changed me. It either changed me or it broke me," he says.

"But when I showed up [at camp] I was wearing a white turtleneck and white bell-bottoms. And I was from Connecticut and playing tennis at the country club. When I came back I was wearing hiking boots and jeans and I'd spent some time with some interesting people," he says.

It turns out it was a profitable move in more ways than one. Now as the wisecracking **Tony DiNozzo** on **CBS'** "NCIS," Weatherly, 36, has to combine those skills along with his impish sense of humor and considerable acting talent.

"He's a federal agent but he has very little regard for towing the line of political correctness or anything like that," he says.

"I love playing somebody who was kind of a rebel without a cause," says Weatherly.

Weatherly's son, 8-year-old August, is with him today at this Sunday morning breakfast. The two plan a secret outing after Weatherly is done, and it's clear August enjoys his father's company, even if it does mean sitting still in a restaurant booth for an hour.

Weatherly, who played **Logan** on "Dark Angel," and the evil ex-husband on "Jesse," broke family tradition when he became an actor. And while he underplays it, the subversive move was probably more costly than he admits.

"I grew up in Connecticut, went to an all-boys school and then went away to boarding school," he says.

"So I grew up in a very narrow world ... I felt that I didn't know enough about the world at large, and I'm a people-watcher. I love to do that. I wanted to learn about other people. And so it's my endless fasci-

nation with what makes people tick."

Weatherly's parents divorced when he was 15. And he has a pack of half- and stepiblings because each parent married three times. He also has one blood brother, William.

His father, who is the exclusive importer and distributor of the Swiss Army knife, wasn't pleased when Weatherly told him he wanted to quit college in his senior year.

"He lives in Jamaica half a year, and I called him in Jamaica and said, 'I'm going to move to New York, and I want to be an actor.' He said, 'You should think very carefully about what you are doing because you're closing doors by not finishing your education, and you're not allowing yourself the opportunity to become what you should one day become — which is probably a mature adult.'"

So when Weatherly blew out political science for primetime he was on his own.

"In the social hierarchy I took myself down a notch," he says with a nod. Glancing at August, he says, "This is probably not a great thing for future generations, but I didn't want to have a safety net. I thought if I have a safety net, I'll get a job in advertising or something and I won't feel as motivated. I really needed all that motivation. ... But I don't think it was ever my father's intention to put me on any kind of a trust fund. We don't have trust fund babies in our family. Once you're 18, you can go to college. And college is paid for, a gift of huge magnitude, but I looked a gift horse in the mouth and became an actor."

There were some struggling years, but Weatherly managed to cop a Snickers commercial and eventually wound up on daytime's "Loving," where he worked with his ex-wife, actress **Amelia Heinle**.

He wouldn't mind marrying again, he says, and is dating a woman who works in the pharmaceutical industry and doesn't live in California.

He's also dated **Rachel Hunter** and **Jessica Alba**.

"I heard a great thing ... about men and women. There are gardeners and there are flowers. You can have a gardener and a flower."

You can have a gardener and a gardener — might be a little boring but they're working hard. But if you have two flowers, nobody's taking care of the garden. Actors have a tendency to be flowers. So nobody's minding the garden."

Looking lovingly at August, he adds, "When I'm hanging out with you I'm sort of a gardener and you're the flower. You bring out the gardener in me."



CBS photo



## OPINION

## Islamic world is also at conflict with itself

BY MARTIN SCHRAM

Scripps Howard News Service

When we look back, one year from now, we will see that the big story of 2005 was nothing like the mild, myopic goulash that the print pundits and TV chattering heads just dished us as New Year's predictions about Bush-this, Hillary-that, Iraq-this, Social Security-that.

The big story will be that 2005 was the year of Islam vs. Islam.

It will be a year of Islamic conflicts that will erupt explosively in various ways around the planet. Islamic fundamentalist moderates, monarchs, military and nonmilitary autocrats who are fundamentalist and not-so-fundamentalist will clash in Saudi Arabia, the now-forming Palestinian state in Gaza and the West Bank, Afghanistan, Pakistan and, to varying degrees, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. These will be clashes of ideology, militancy and just plain power-grabbing.

Much has changed in the Islamic world in recent months. In some areas, voices of authority and moderation have begun speaking with increased urgency and persuasive power. But militants, most notably al-Qaida, have begun to turn their terror against Islamic targets of authority, most notably in Saudi Arabia. But those forces together and the result may well be clashes that could decide whether ours will be a world relatively at peace or plunged into further mindless and bloody wars of terror for years to come.

Let me guess: Fair enough. So am I. Let me offer an alternative as we march into 2005. Think of America as divided into an Old Testament nation and a New Testament nation.

## Blue vs. red: Different muses, different mind-sets

Let me guess: You're tired of red and blue states. Fair enough. So am I. Let me offer an alternative as we march into 2005. Think of America as divided into an Old Testament nation and a New Testament nation.

William McKenzie

Old Testament America largely resides along the two coasts and in the Upper Midwest. And when it comes to religion and politics, this nation mostly emphasizes social morality. Gaps between rich and poor. Lack of health care. Pollution pouring down.

All this fits in with Amos, Micah and those Old Testament prophets. They talked about societies being fair and just. And you can hear their values preached in the Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian churches of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Minnesota. You also hear them in Catholic churches in places like Alabama. Think Garrison, Keller, liberal church values and Democratic strongholds.

Over in New Testament America, which runs mostly across the South, West and Rocky Mountains, you get a different emphasis. Personal morality dominates there. Marital fidelity. No abortions. And certainly no gay weddings.

These are people who'll cite you Paul and Romans when discussing homosexuality. They'll also look to books like Galatians for instruction in daily living, like keeping your thoughts pure. That's what you'll hear in small Bible churches, evangelical mega-churches and Pentecostal temples in Flori-

da, Texas and Colorado. Just James Dobson's Focus on the Family and GOP voters.

Here's the question: Neither morality is sufficient unto itself. Old Testament nation can talk about social justice, environmental stewardship and racial equality. But the New Testament nation has a point. What good is all that if you're cheating on your wife or abusing your kids? Personal morality matters — a lot.

Likewise, New Testament nation can complain about homosexuality, abortions and adultery. But what good is that if you ignore gays suffering from AIDS? Or single moms unable to earn a good living? Without social compassion, faith becomes hard and cold.

Or, as Paul would say, a clanging cymbal. What we need is both halves — personal and social morality. That's a tall order, I

admit. But we've had leaders who have combined the two. Jimmy Carter practiced personal piety, even once shocking people as he confessed his lusts. And he understood the social dimensions of his faith, pressing for human rights and decent living standards around the world.

Religious leaders such as the Rev. Eugene Rivers get it today. Like a prophet, the Boston Baptist presses local and national leaders to address social issues such as teen violence, drug abuse and AIDS.

The Old Testament land minister also understands the personal morality New Testament America values. As a pastor in inner-city Boston, he's worked with the Bush White House on finding more personal remedies to, say, drug addiction. He understands that a mentor can do wonders when it



to be seen whether calm heads will suddenly prevail with wisdom and the other groups that have launched terrorist strikes in Israel.

Importantly, in a stunning shift, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt recently declared that Israel's longtime hardliner Ariel Sharon, who is moving to hand over the Gaza Strip to the Palestinians, now appears to be the Palestinians' best chance for forging a lasting peace.

While many U.S. officials have criticized the coverage of the two largest Arab news networks, Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya, they are not the same. Abdul Rahman Al-Rashed, a Saudi who this year became the head of Al-Arabiya, is a staunch critic of Islamic fundamentalist militants. After more than 300

died when Islamic rebels from Chechnya seized a school, he wrote a newspaper column declaring, "It is a certain fact that not all Muslims are terrorists, but it is equally certain, and exceptionally painful, that almost all terrorists are Muslims. ... We cannot tolerate in our midst those who abduct journalists, murder civilians, explode buses, we cannot accept them as related to us, whatever the sufferings they claim to justify their criminal deeds."

"These are the people who have smeared Islam and stained its image."

The emergence of Islamic moderates in positions of power is perhaps the most hopeful sign of all in this time of conflict.

Martin Schram writes political analysis for Scripps Howard News Service.

comes to battling a nasty habit.

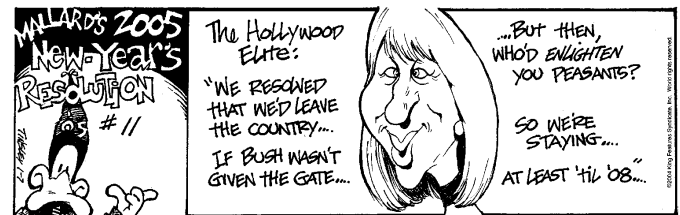
The Rev. Marcus Jackson at the New Mount Moriah Baptist Church in Dallas sticks out, too. He can quote the Bible as much as any fellow New Testament resident. And he practices the spiritual discipline a strong faith requires. But he acknowledges personal holiness only takes you so far. Social justice also is biblical, he emphasized in several conversations we had last year about the presidential election.

That's what I'm looking for: leaders who can combine justice with piety. ... At some point, we need to bring the Old and New Testament nations together. One without the other leaves us incomplete. Personal morality and social morality need to go together, not compete at the ballot box.

William McKenzie is an editorial columnist for The Dallas Morning News.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



# Horoscope

The sun and Jupiter have terse words, bringing focus to just what it is we think we deserve. Entitlement is tricky business. Sure, the Zen approach of expecting nothing works for the highly evolved. But for those of us who aren't quite there yet — and there's plenty on getting there anytime soon — send our sights too low will feel like a mistake.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(January 7).** Your excellent self-care attracts the best of you this year. This month features life-changing educational opportunities! Loved ones learn from you, and their success contributes to your success. Clear out any communication trouble, and get your living arrangement in order this month. Change your financial plan in March for a windfall in June.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Believe in your talent. Beware of the trap of becoming an armchair philosopher or poet when you could rise to the level of a practicing artist. All of the rewards go to those who are willing to dig in and do the work.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** It's a big challenge to break out of your fixed mind-set now. It seems that things are as they have been eternally and as they will remain forever. Being around a mentally benighted Aquarius or Libra is the remedy.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** It's go-go-go time. The pace is fast, but not only are mistakes ignored, they are also of little consequence. The quantity of production outweighs its quality in the end. This evening brings riotous fun.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Young people learn quickly because they have no preconceived notions. It's impossible to learn what you think you know already. A relationship can blossom when you stop anticipating the other person's next move.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Every body loves a shortcut, and you'll find one that many would benefit know-

ing. Keep it to yourself for a while, though. Your expertise is well earned, and others will respect it more when you don't share so readily.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Sweet gestures and kind words are exchanged. Friendships develop when you reach out because you want to, not because you've got anything in particular to gain from the interaction.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You're a dear, you're a doll, you're a pal! And this is why so much of your time is with other people's disposal. No one is going to get you're the bad guy if you say, "I wish I could help you, but I can't."

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** The stars remind you of the physical limitations we all share. Since you can't create more time in the day, in order to improve your life, you'll have to create more value. Aim for a bigger accomplishment.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Anywhere people gather to work on health is fabulous for your love life. If you are in a relationship, reinforcing your commitment to health makes you feel sexy. And if single, you'll meet others with like values.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** It seems that your mood depends solely on how a key relationship is going for you. It's time to take the power back that you're so readily giving away. Feast at life's table instead of setting for the crumbs on the floor.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Ask for more — just for the heck of it! People are surprisingly agreeable to your requests. The experiences you gathered from dating Mr. Me Wrong will help you make the most of tonight's adventure.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Your self-concept is going through another one of those incremental changes. Experiment by thinking, talking and dressing differently. Discovering a new aspect of yourself is like happening on a sunken treasure.

Creators Syndicate

## Holiday Mathis



## Calvin and Hobbes



## Jump Start



## Zits



## Cathy



## Hi and Lois



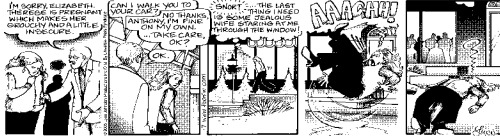
## Beetle Bailey



## Red and Rover



## Better or Worse

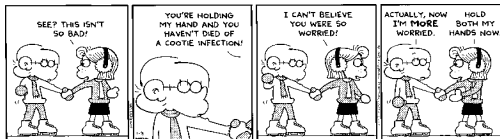


## Peanuts





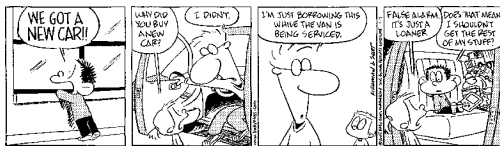
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



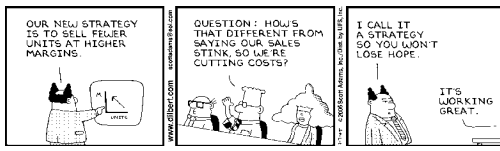
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



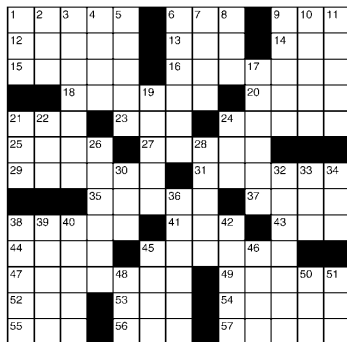
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Huey, Dewey and Louie
- 6 Third degree?
- 9 Society newbie
- 12 A religion
- 13 Melody
- 14 Prior night
- 15 "Positive thinking" proponent
- 16 Brass instrument
- 18 Panne, e.g.
- 20 Lotsa time
- 21 Mainlander's memento
- 23 Stannum
- 24 Adipose
- 25 Detail
- 27 Rose
- 29 Progenitor
- 31 Right on time
- 35 Miss America's accessory

## Down

- 1 Potato-chip enhancement
- 2 Deal with
- 3 Keyboard instrument
- 4 Hardy cabbage
- 5 Work in a refinery
- 6 Obvious
- 7 "Java" man
- 8 Actress Joanne
- 9 Station
- 10 "Wheel of Fortune" category
- 11 "Heavens to —!"
- 17 Lea
- 19 Panorama
- 21 Back talk
- 22 Schedule abbr.
- 24 Supporting
- 26 In grams, liters, etc.
- 28 October stones
- 30 Serbian city
- 32 Percussion instrument
- 33 Snoo
- 34 Gadget for Els
- 36 Spa
- 38 Re John Paul II
- 39 Ozu flavor
- 40 Pruritic
- 42 "Is that your — answer?"
- 45 Sheltered
- 46 Unaltered
- 48 Resistance unit
- 50 Wapiti
- 51 — Plaines, Illinois

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 1-7

## CRYPTOQUIP

Y Q C M C R J K E Y V  
G B Y X Y M C J G L Q E K X C  
Q Y B X V R C V J Y V F A A K V G

S G V K F I K Q J S G A Y R J F E G.  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF YOU GAVE CASH  
SELLING LARGE COFFEES, I GUESS THAT  
MEANS YOU URN YOUR KEEP.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: R equals C





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3. Choose a category from the Index running most days in Stars & Stripes Classified.
4. Decide which day you would like your ad to begin running, and submit with the appropriate payment on or before the deadline listed below.

MONDAY	DUE NOON THURSDAY	FRIDAY	DUE 4 PM TUESDAY
TUESDAY	DUE 4 PM THURSDAY	SATURDAY	DUE NOON WEDNESDAY
WEDNESDAY	DUE 4 PM THURSDAY	SUNDAY	DUE 4 PM WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY	DUE 4 PM MONDAY		

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Deadline to place, cancel, or make any change to an ad is four business days prior to first date of publication. It is the responsibility of the advertiser to contact European Stars & Stripes Classified on the first date of publication to correct errors. If the ad has a typographical error, that does not affect the integral value of the ad, i.e., misspelled words; wrong category (even by one digit); false information; it will be corrected, but no resubmission will be given. Incorrect phone numbers, wrong price, wrong dates, wrong date or model listed incorrectly will result in a misadvised for one additional day. Stars & Stripes reserves the right to edit and return any and all ads considered inappropriate for publication. All classified advertisements are non-refundable.

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Netherlands: 0800-9222804  
Fax: Germany 0515-601-376  
Phone: 0800-922804  
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### Automotive 140

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### Autos for Sale - Germany 142

### Used cars from \$700 to \$3000

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# Johnson, Yanks agree on contract extension

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Randy Johnson and the New York Yankees reached a preliminary agreement Thursday on a \$32 million, two-year contract extension, The Associated Press learned.

The Big Unit waived his no-trade clause as part of the agreement, a baseball official and a person close to Johnson said on condition of anonymity.

Arizona's deal with New York, which was tentatively agreed to last week, calls for the Diamondbacks to receive pitchers Javier Vazquez and Brad Halsey, catcher Dioner Navarro and \$9 million. Only one step remains for the five-time Cy Young Award winner to join the Yankees. All players involved in the trade must pass physicals.

The Yankees, Diamondbacks and agents for the players were working Thursday on the logistics of arranging the medical exams.

Johnson would join a starting rotation that includes Mike Mussina, Kevin Brown, Carl Pavano, Jarret Wright. Tanyon Sturtze is viewed as a possible sixth starter behind Brown, who has had back problems, get hurt again.

The 41-year-old left-hander's current deal calls for a \$16 million salary in 2005, of which \$6 million is deferred at 2 percent interest. New York and Johnson's agents, Alan Nero and Barry Meister, were completing the structure of the new contract Thursday.

## MLB briefs

Arizona also has a preliminary agreement in place to trade Navarro and pitching prospect William J. J. to Los Angeles for outfielder Shawn Green and \$8 million. That deal is contingent on the Diamondbacks and Green agreeing to an extension, but the status of those talks was unclear Thursday.

**Ponson apologizes for involvement in fight in Aruba**

ORANJESTAD, Aruba — Baltimore Orioles pitcher Sidney Ponson apologized for his involvement in a Christmas Day fight on a beach in Aruba, though he didn't mention allegations that he punched a judge.

"I'd like to say that I'm not at all proud of what happened and the way I behaved on the beach that particular day," Ponson told reporters Wednesday in his native Papiamentu language before boarding a private jet headed to Miami. "I would like to apologize to everybody, but especially to the young people of Aruba, who always considered me their role model. I'm very sorry for what took place and I would surely never let this happen again."

Ponson also apologized to the judge and three other people who were on the beach. He did not take any questions before getting on the jet with his agent.



Randy Johnson and the New York Yankees reached a preliminary agreement Thursday on a two-year, \$32 million extension.

Ponson was released from jail Tuesday after a week in detention while police investigated allegations that he punched a judge. The 28-year-old right-hander faces charges of public violence and simple aggression.

His trial was set for March 3, when he would be in spring training with the Orioles. It was not clear whether Ponson would be required to attend the trial.

**Tigers acquire catcher Wilson**

DETROIT — The New York Mets traded catcher Vance Wilson to the Detroit Tigers on Thursday for minor league infielder Anderson Hernandez. Wilson will back up Ivan Rodriguez in Detroit. In 67 games for the Mets last season, he hit .274 with four homers and 21 RBIs, and threw out 11 of 32 (34 percent) runners who tried to steal.

# Champ Car's Jourdain switching to Busch ride

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Champ Car driver Michel Jourdain Jr. signed a deal Thursday with Ford Motorsports to switch to NASCAR and run the full Busch Series schedule this season.

Jourdain plans to drive a Taurus for ppc Racing and will be the first Hispanic to race a full NASCAR schedule.

"I'm very excited about this chance," Jourdain said. "I've been wanting to come to NASCAR for a couple years now, and (Ford Racing director) Dan Davis worked very hard with me to find the right opportunity where I could have a chance to work and learn with a top team like ppc."

The 28-year-old Jourdain spent nine years in top open-wheel competition and finished 12th in the Champ Car World Series last season in a Ford-powered car for RuSport.

The son of well-known Mexican racer Michel Jourdain Sr., he became the youngest Champ Car driver at age 19 in 1996 and was the former CART Series' Most Improved Driver in 1997. In 152 Champ Car starts, Jourdain had two wins, 25 top-10s and nine top-three finishes. His best championship finish came in 2003, when he raced for Team Rahal.

But Jourdain shifted to RuSport last season rather than go with Rahal to the IRL.

**Spencer Collins appeals to Criter against eight-year ban**

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — American sprinter Michelle Collins is appealing her eight-year doping ban to the highest court in sports.

Collins filed an appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport, seeking to overturn the ban imposed by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency as a result of evidence collected in the BALCO steroids scandal.

No hearing date has been set. The CAS said Thursday it normally issues rulings within four months of an appeal.

The American Arbitration Association sided with USAADA on Dec. 10, ruling that Collins used various performance-enhancing substances allegedly provided by the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative.

While Collins, 33, never tested positive for drugs, USAADA charged her with doping based on patterns observed in her blood and urine tests, as well as evidence from the BALCO investigation.

In addition to the ban, Collins was stripped of her 2003 world U.S. indoor titles in the 200 meters.

**Federer reaches Qatar semis**

DOHA, Qatar — Roger Federer breezed into the semifinals of the \$1 million Qatar Open with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Feliciano Lopez on Thursday.

The world's No. 1 player, preparing to defend his Australian Open title, was flawless in extending his winning streak to 19 matches since his loss at the

## Sports briefs

Olympics in August. Federer won in 53 minutes.

In the semis, Federer will play Nikolay Pietrangeli, who rallied from a set down to beat Sebastian Grosjean 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.

**Defending champ V. Williams wins opening match**

HONG KONG — Venus Williams struggled to beat Russia's Vera Zvonareva 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 Thursday in the Champions Challenge exhibition tournament.

Williams led 3-0 in the third set before suffering a lapse of concentration against Zvonareva, who reeled off five straight games to lead 5-3. Zvonareva only needed to hold serve to win the match, but Williams regained control and won the match after the Russian doubled faulted.

Williams, whose season last year was cut short by injuries, played with a wrap around her left thigh but said it was just a protective measure.

Williams plays U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova in Friday's match that will determine who advances to Saturday's final. Elena Dementieva reached the final when Czech star Nicole Pietrangeli withdrew Thursday due to illness.

**Slovakia upsets U.S. squad in Hopman Cup**

PERTH, Australia — Meghan Shaughnessy and James Blake lost singles matches in the United States' loss to Slovakia in a group match Thursday at the Hopman Cup, but the American team remains in contention for a spot in the final against Argentina.

Daniela Hantuchova defeated Shaughnessy 6-4, 6-2 and Dominik Hrbaty beat Blake 7-6 (2), 6-4 to give Slovakia the victory. Blake and Shaughnessy won the mixed doubles, losing the first set in 17 minutes but then rallying to win two tiebreakers.

That win in mixed doubles could turn out to be crucial if the U.S. team ends up tied for first place in its group. The Americans' next round-robin match is set for Friday against injury-weakened Australia.

Argentina advanced to the final when Germany's Tommy Haas withdrew from his singles match against Guillermo Coria on Thursday because of a strained groin. Germany also defaulted in mixed doubles. Argentina reached the Hopman Cup final for the first time.

**Kildow regains downhill lead with second-place finish**

SANTA CATERINA VALTURA, Italy — American Lindsey Kildow reclaimed the points lead in the World Cup downhill standings by finishing second Thursday to Austrian Michaela Dorfmeister.

It was the fourth top-three finish of the season for Kildow, who won the opening downhill on Dec. 3 in Lake Louise, and the first of Gerg, of Germany finished third Thursday, losing the leader's job to Kildow.

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# In a season of futility, 49ers clean house

## Coach Erickson, GM Donohue dismissed after team's poorest showing since 1979

BY GREG BEACHAM

The Associated Press

SANCTA CLARA, Calif. — Owner John York eventually came to the same conclusion reached much earlier by most of the San Francisco 49ers' fans: Terry Donohue was the wrong man to rebuild this once-proud franchise, and Dennis Erickson was the wrong man to coach it.

York fired his coach and dismissed his general manager on Wednesday, cleaning house just three days after the 49ers finished with the NFL's worst record. The owner made a rare public appearance to announce the dramatic changes to his team, which went 2-14 to match the worst season in San Francisco history.

The new coach and general manager will get to use the first overall pick in the upcoming draft, but the 49ers' reputation has declined steadily since York and his wife took over the team in 1999. York believes he can fix things — and boost the 49ers' attempts to raise support for a new stadium — by hiring new people who can quickly transform his club.

It's an expensive solution, however: Erickson will get all of the \$7.5 million still owed to him in the three remaining years of his contract, while Donohue reached a financial settlement just four months after getting a four-year extension reportedly worth \$5 million.

"Sometimes, even when everyone works very hard, the formula for winning just isn't there," York said. "We're going to use the extreme disappointment that we all have felt as our turning point."

"We know how much passion 49ers fans have, and we understand that this is unacceptable to our fans. We need our fans to know that it is equally unacceptable to us. We take our responsibility as owners seriously."

Erickson went 9-23 in two seasons as Steve Mariucci's successor, never reaching the postseason. He won two national championships at the University of Miami, but is 40-56 in six seasons as an NFL head coach in San Francisco and Seattle.

Erickson got the news in a meeting with York on Wednesday morning. He has little reason to be bitter: He's leaving one of the NFL's biggest messes, and he got paid roughly \$1.39 million for every victory with the 49ers.

"There really wasn't much more than that, other than I thanked him for the opportunity," Erickson said. "They wanted to go their direction, I've got to go my direction. It's a divorce. It's final now."

The 49ers won five championships from 1981-94, but on York's watch, they've had just two winning seasons and won just one playoff game. Erickson is the second coach fired by York in slightly less than two years, following his abrupt dismissal of



In six NFL seasons, Dennis Erickson compiled 40-56 record, including 9-23 in two seasons with the San Francisco 49ers.

Mariucci just days after a second-round playoff loss at Tampa Bay.

York said he plans to hire a winning head coach with NFL experience before replacing his general manager, though he doesn't expect one man to hold both jobs. He has a list of fewer than 10 candidates, including a few coaches still working for playoff teams. Under a recent rule change, assistant coaches with teams still in the playoffs are allowed to interview for other jobs.

York didn't deny an interest in speaking to former Patriots and Jets coach Pete Carroll, who wrapped up his second straight national championship with Southern California on Tuesday night.

"I think we all watched the game last night. That was a tremendous game," York

said. "They were very dominant, and he's a great coach."

Donohue, the longtime UCLA coach, was the hand-picked successor to Bill Walsh, who led the team's rebuilding from a similar salary cap-induced slump five years ago. Since taking over from Walsh in 2001, Donohue has been criticized for mediocre drafts and unorthodox strategies, from his difficult salary cap relief plan to his reliance on unusual player evaluation methods.

"I am very disappointed that I do not have the opportunity to remain with the 49ers," Donohue said in a statement. "There is absolutely no doubt in my mind with the improvement in the salary cap situation, the return of a lot of injured players along with a good draft, that we would have experienced a great deal of success in the future."

While Erickson took much of the heat for the 49ers' record, many of their shortcomings were due to a stripped-down roster assembled by Donohue, who waived several veterans and pared the payroll last summer in an effort to rid the 49ers of the "dead money" — being paid to players no longer with the team — on their salary cap. San Francisco had nearly \$29 million in dead money this season despite the departures of receiver Terrell Owens, quarterback Jeff Garcia, running back Garrison Hearst and standout offensive linemen Derrick Desea and Ron Stone, among others.

The 49ers knew they would struggle this season with that young, inexpensive roster, but few expected them to match the 2-14 marks set by the club in 1978 and 1979. "Nobody thought we'd be sitting here at 2-14," York said. "Absolutely nobody."

## Brees chosen Comeback Player of '04

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Drew Brees went from forgotten man to one of the NFL's best quarterbacks this season. He was rewarded for his turnaround with the Associated Press 2004 Comeback Player of the Year award.

The San Diego Chargers so doubted Brees after his weak 2003 performance that they drafted Eli Manning with the top pick last April, then traded him to the New York Giants for the rights to another highly rated quarterback prospect, Phillip Rivers. Had Rivers not held out for half the preseason, Brees might not have gotten on the field in '04.

The first choice in the second round of the 2001 draft completed 262 of 400 passes for 3,159 yards, 27 touchdowns and only seven interceptions.

His 104.8 rating was a 37.3 point improvement over the previous year.

Brees got 18½ votes from a national panel of writers and broadcasters who cover pro football, easily beating Carolina linebacker Mark Fields, who received 10 votes. Fields was sidelined last season with Hodgkin's disease.

**Savage reportedly set to be Browns GM**

CLEVELAND — Phil Savage accepted an offer to be general manager of the Cleveland Browns, leaving Baltimore for a

struggling AFC North rival, a Browns official told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Considered one of the NFL's top talent evaluators, the 39-year-old Savage is returning to the Browns, who gave him his start in the NFL in 1991 as a defensive assistant under coordinator Nick Saban.

With Baltimore, Savage's keen eye for quality players helped the Ravens draft nine Pro Bowlers, including Ray Lewis, Jonathan Ogden, Jamal Lewis, Peter Boulware and Ed Reed, in eight years.

Owner Randy Lerner wants a more traditionally structured front office, where the GM handles most personnel matters, leaving the coach with on-field responsibilities.

## Nemesis: Marty has a track record of short playoff runs

NEMESIS, FROM BACK PAGE

Byner at the Denver 2 with 1:05 left. Denver won, 38-33.

Schottenheimer remembers that receiver Webster Slaughter was supposed to run a route into one corner of the end zone.

"But he was a young player and he was interested in seeing what happened on the play so he took one step and he stopped," Schottenheimer said. "Well, when the defender saw him stop, he looked back and saw the runner come and he took off. He never would have been in the play if they had just run up in the corner of the end zone. Byner never saw him coming."

In 1995, Schottenheimer's Chiefs had the NFL's best record and were shocked 10-7 at home by the wild-card Indianapolis Colts. The Chiefs committed an uncharacteristic four turnovers and Lin Elliott missed three field goals.

The same Colts, by the way, upset the Chargers 35-20 on Dec. 31, 1995, San Diego's most recent playoff game.

Schottenheimer's last playoff game was after the 1997 season, and again Elway ended his season, 14-10 in Kansas City.

Linebacker Donnie Edwards, now in his third year with the Chargers, remembers the Chiefs collapsing against an underdog wild-card team after again going 13-3.

"All of a sudden we lost to the

Broncos and everyone's just sitting there stunned like, 'Season's over, what do we do now?'

Edwards said.

Edwards says the Chiefs probably overlooked the Broncos, who went on to win the Super Bowl.

That was also the game in which Schottenheimer went back to quarterback Elvis Grbac even though Rich Gannon played well in relief while Grbac was injured. It was Schottenheimer's fourth straight playoff loss.

Schottenheimer says he never wonders why he's had such bad luck, "because then you have to go and look at the ones that went your way. You know they're single-elimination going in. Hell, we went six quarters against the Jets to win in that year of 'The Drive'."

Edwards said Schottenheimer has eased up on the Chargers in practice, which could be a key Saturday night.

"I know in the past it wasn't like that at all," Edwards said. "We were in pads and we were banging. In that respect, it's totally changed. That's huge right there. He's taken them off us so we can be ready, set to go and start on Saturday."

And maybe change their coach's luck.



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# Saturday a wild beginning to NFL playoffs

BY RICK GOSSELIN

The Dallas Morning News

**T**he NFL playoffs begin this weekend with the wild-card round, which pits four division winners against the four non-division-winning "wild cards." The teams with the four best records draw byes this round, giving them an extra week of rest.

## Analysis

Only twice in the last six years has a team that has played on the opening weekend of the postseason advanced to the Super Bowl. Tennessee in 1999 and Baltimore in 2000. Both were wild cards, and the Ravens went on to win the championship.

Here are the why's and why not's of the four teams playing Saturday on wild-card weekend:

### St. Louis Rams (8-8) at Seattle Seahawks (9-7)

**RAMS: WHY THEY CAN WIN** — Officiating emphasis. NFL supervisor of officials Mike Pereira says the crackdown on illegal contact will continue in January and games will be called in the postseason the same way they were called in the regular season.

That's great news for the passing game. Few teams are as heavily reliant on the pass to win games as the Rams, who finished fifth in the NFL in passing. Quarterback Marc Bulger has thrown 400-yard games and passed for 3,964 yards despite missing two games with injuries. Any time the ball is in the air the Rams have a chance.

**RAMS: WHY THEY WON'T** — Road woes. Wild-card teams must play on the road. The Rams are a wild-card team that can't win on the road. The Rams went 6-2 at the Edward Jones Dome this season and 2-6 away from it. The Dolphins beat the Rams in Miami to snap an 0-6 start. The Rams were paddled in December by the 6-10 Cardinals in Arizona, 31-7. They also were spanked by good teams, losing 40-22 in Foxborough to the Patriots and 45-17 in Green Bay to the Packers. Make



New York Jets defensive end Shaun Ellis (92), celebrates Jonathan Vilma's 38-yard interception return for a touchdown against the St. Louis Rams in St. Louis on Sunday. Ellis, who had 11 sacks this season, will be leading the Jets' defensive charge against the San Diego Chargers on Saturday.

the Rams wear their white road jerseys and they become football pacifists.

**SEAHAWKS: WHY THEY CAN WIN** — Opportunism. The Seahawks are soft on defense. They were the only division champion that allowed more points (373) than it scored (371), and only six NFL defenses allowed more yards than the Seahawks. But this defense has survived by forcing turnovers. The Seahawks finished third in the NFL in interceptions (23) and sixth in takeaways (35).

Turnovers create good field position for your offense. Thirteen Seattle defenders came up with takeaways on interceptions or

fumbles.

Cornerback Ken Lucas intercepted six passes and recovered two fumbles.

**SEAHAWKS: WHY THEY WON'T** — No momentum. The Seahawks looked like a Super Bowl contender in September when they rolled to 3-0. But Seattle blew a 17-point fourth quarter lead at home against St. Louis in Week 4, losing 33-27 in overtime, and hasn't been the same team since. The Seahawks staggered down the stretch with a 6-6 record, including a blowout home loss to Buffalo and an embarrassing road loss at Arizona. Seattle no longer looks like a Super Bowl contender. They want to be playing

ing their best football of the season in December, not September.

### New York Jets (10-6) at San Diego Chargers (12-4)

**JETS: WHY THEY CAN WIN** — Defensive bookends. Ends Jon Abraham and Shaun Ellis anchor a stout run defense and frantic pass rush. Ellis was a Pro Bowler in 2003 and Abraham in 2004.

Ellis had 11 sacks this season and Abraham 9½. They also combined for 105 tackles to muscle the Jets into the top five in the NFL in run defense. They are the type of size/speed ends Bill Parcells would love as bookends in his defense. In fact, Parcells se-

lected both in the first round of his final draft with the Jets in 2000. They control the edges of the defense.

Abraham, who has missed the last month with a sprained lateral collateral ligament in his right knee, is listed as probable on the injury report.

**JETS: WHY THEY WON'T** — Offensive imbalance. The Jets rank third in the NFL in rushing but 22nd in passing.

They generated fewer than 200 yards passing in 10 games and failed to throw a touchdown pass in five of them. Curtis Martin had a terrific season, contending for a rushing title despite running smack into eight-man fronts. He'll probably see nine-man fronts in the postseason as defenses dare soft-armed Chad Pennington to throw. The Jets managed two individual 100-yard receiving games.

The Colts had an NFL-high 14.

**CHARGERS: WHY THEY CAN WIN** — Coaching. That's right, coaching. Marty Schottenheimer has been much-maligned because he has never taken a team to the Super Bowl in his 19 seasons as an NFL head coach. What can't be disregarded is the fact he ranks eighth in career victories (177) and has suffered only two losing seasons. He engineered a 101 victory improvement at San Diego from 2003 to 2004. He's reached three conference title games. If he reaches a fourth, don't bet against him. LaDanian Tomlinson provides the best version yet of Martell.

**CHARGERS: WHY THEY WON'T** — Travel. If the Chargers win the first round game in sunny Southern California, they probably will have to travel to the Eastern time zone on three consecutive weeknights. That would be a boon for the frequent flyer account — 2,106 miles to Pittsburgh (AFC semifinals), 2,585 miles to Boston (AFC finals) and then 2,088 miles to Jacksonville (Super Bowl). But three cross-country flights in a span of three weeks takes a toll on the body. San Diego played its only Super Bowl in Miami last year, was smoked by the 49ers, 49-26.

## Odds makers, matchups favor Seahawks, Chargers, Colts, Pack

BY DAVID GOLDBERG

The Associated Press

## NFL picks

The NFL playoffs are usually easier to handicap than the regular season for a simple reason: The better teams are at home.

So the odds makers automatically give the three points for home-field advantage, plus a few more for being better. That's the case as the playoffs start this weekend.

The closest line is in Seattle, where the Seahawks are favored by four over the Rams, even though St. Louis won both meetings between them in the NFC West, easily the league's worst division.

That's one of two division matchups this weekend. The other is in Green Bay, where the

Packers and Vikings play for the third time this season. In fact, all four games are rematches, although Broncos-Colts is barely that — Indianapolis played scrubs in Denver last week.

The picks:

**St. Louis (plus 4) at Seattle:** The Seahawks' problems this year started in their fourth game, when they were unhealed and led the Rams by 17 points at home with just more than 6 minutes to go. They lost 33-27 in overtime and later fell 23-12 in St. Louis.

It shouldn't happen again, although Seattle is in psychological disarray.

Shaun Alexander "apologized"

for complaining about not getting the ball for the Seahawks' final touchdown against Atlanta last week and losing the rushing title by 1 yard to the Jets' Curtis Martin. But there was an edge to the apology.

Nonetheless, St. Louis was 2-6 on the road this season, Seattle is more talented anyway and ... **SEAHAWKS, 35-26.**

**New York Jets (plus 6) at San Diego:** Another rematch: New York won 34-28 in Week 2, when the Chargers didn't know they were good.

Since then, San Diego has gotten better, and the Jets have gotten worse, in part because Chad Pennington is playing with a sore rotator cuff, something his many critics in New York don't seem to have considered in taking shots at him.

Pennington doesn't have the strongest arm when healthy. Now he can hardly throw deep at all, allowing defenses to stack for Curtis Martin. San Diego will do that and ... **CHARGERS, 24-16.**

**Denver (plus 10) at Indianapolis:** The Broncos made the playoffs by beating the visiting Colts, who used Jim Sorgi at quarterback.

These are the Colts with Peyton Manning, who beat Denver 41-10 in last season's first round at the RCA Dome.

That caused Mike Shanahan to revamp his defense, bringing in Champ Bailey and John Lynch to help the secondary. They have, but they're not going to shut down Manning, Edgerrin James and the Marvin Harrison-Reggie Wayne-Brandon Stokley trioka. ... **COLTS, 31-17.**

**Minnesota (plus 6) at Green Bay:** The Packers won both meetings this season 34-31, the latest in Minneapolis on Dec. 24. And their secondary is certainly vulnerable to Dante Culpepper, Randy Moss and the Jets, although Moss produced some discord by walking off the field with 2 seconds left in the Vikings' loss in Washington last week.

Nonetheless, the betting numbers are these: The Packers won nine of their final 11 games; the Vikings lost seven of their last 10. The second straight season they've done that.

The Lambeau magic isn't what it used to be, but ... **PACKERS, 34-31.**

**Final week: 7-8-1 (spread), 9-7 (straight up).**

**Regular season:** 111-123-6 (spread), 156-84 (straight up).





# Mavericks continue improving with near-perfect Terry starting

The Associated Press

DALLAS — The Dallas Mavericks are finding out that maybe Jason Terry was the right point guard to replace Steve Nash after all.

Terry continued his roll since finally making into the starting line-up, scoring a season-high 28 points and doing a great job running the offense in a 118-104 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday night.

"I started getting in the lane and hitting guys, then they started to find me and I started attacking," Terry said. "That's the kind of rhythm we're looking for."

Terry's numbers were gaudy: 9-for-10 on field goals, perfect on free three-pointers and 5-for-6 on free throws. He also had six rebounds, five assists and just one turnover. The stunning part was a 12-minute stretch when he either scored or assisted on 27 of 29 points, taking Dallas from five down to up by 14.

But perhaps the most important stat is the Mavericks improving to 6-1 since he's become the starter, with their scoring up to 110 points per game. They were 15-9 and averaging 99 points when Terry was backing up rookie Devin Harris.

The Lakers gave up their second-most points in regulation this season, but coach Rudy Tomjanovich called it "the worst defense we've played." It also came the night after a 100-83 win at Los Angeles that wasn't even that close.

"We've got to put a tourniquet on it and win some games," Tomjanovich said, adding that missed shots on offense tend to leave players sagging on defense.

Kobe Bryant scored 32 points, but was shut out until early in the second quarter, when Los Angeles already trailed by 15. He also was angry about the defense.

"We're not getting it done," he said. "Tonight, they got what we wanted. Teams have been getting in the paint and getting easy shots on us. Sometimes it takes a couple of kids in the butt to get you going."

Dallas led by as much as 17 and by at least 10 throughout the second half. The rout was a nice way for the Mavericks to cap their first three-game winning streak over the Lakers since 1986-87.

**Heat 102, Knicks 94:** At Miami, Shaquille O'Neal had 33 points and 18 rebounds, Dwyane Wade scored 21 and the Heat limited the Knicks to two field goals in a seven-minute stretch of the first half.

O'Neal made 14 of 21 shots, finishing the 30-point and 18-rebound marks for the third time this season. Wade added a game-high nine assists.

Miami beat most of the way, held a 42-32 rebound margin and showed no ill effects from Monday's home loss to Seattle which snapped a fran-



Dallas Mavericks' Jason Terry, center, flies to the hoop around Los Angeles Lakers' Tierra Brown (5), Slava Medvedenko (14) and Brian Cook, background right.

chise-record 14-game winning streak.

**Magic 105, SuperSonics 87:** Steve Francis scored 27 of his 35 points after halftime, and host Orlando snapped a four-game losing streak.

Grant Hill scored 21 points, shooting 9-for-11, with seven rebounds and six assists. Curtin Mobley added 13 points while Hedo Turkoglu scored 12 off the bench.

**Cavaliers 101, Hawks 85:** At Cleveland, Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored 20 of his 28 points after halftime and Cleveland shut down Atlanta early in the fourth quarter.

LeBron James added 20 points, nine assists and six rebounds in his second game wearing a protective mask over a broken left cheek for the Cavs, who clamped down on the Hawks, blanketing them 12-0 in the first 8:16 of the final quarter.

Atlanta missed its first 12 shots — and both free-throw attempts in the fourth before Tyrone Lee dropped a 15-foot jumper to bring the Hawks to 90-79.

**Celtics 84, Warriors 83:** Paul Pierce had 19 points, eight rebounds and eight assists to make up for a poor outlet shooting night and Al Jefferson had his first career double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Gary Payton added 13 points for the Celtics, who won their fifth straight home game.

**Bobcats 102, Timberwolves 84:** Gerald Wallace had 21 points and 12 rebounds, and an in-your-face block on Wally Szczerbiak that he converted into a fast-break layup.

Wallace had one of his best games as a Bobcat, turning it up during a 16-1 run that helped Charlotte break its six-game losing streak at home. He started the run with a free throw, and he hustled upcourt after blocking Szczer-

biak's shot for a layup that drew a foul. His free throw made it 87-81 with 2:26 to play.

Wallace then stole the ball from Eddie Griffin, and Brevin Knight fired it back to him for a rim-rattling dunk. Melvin Ely added consecutive baskets for the Bobcats, who spread their lead to 93-81 as the Timberwolves went over five minutes without a field goal.

**Raptors 96, Kings 93:** Chris Bosh had 23 points and 13 rebounds for the first back-to-back 20-point games of his career, and Jalen Rose had 20 points off the bench for the Raptors, who have won five straight at home.

Mike Bibby had a season-high 32 points for the Kings, who had won of eight of their previous nine road games. Sacramento played in New York the night before.

**Bucks 97, Nets 74:** At Milwaukee, Joe Smith and Mike James each scored 17 points and Desmond Mason added 16 for the Bucks, who had lost three straight and eight of 11.

Jabari Smith had career highs with 19 points and six assists in a season-high 36 minutes off the bench for the Nets, who came in scoring 86.5 points a game — 29th in the NBA.

**Bulls 95, Hornets 89:** Kirk Hinrich scored 19 points and Eddy Curry added 17, helping resurgent Chicago hand the New Orleans its ninth straight loss.

The Hornets, led by Baron Davis' 21 points, erased a 14-point deficit in the second half, but the Bulls clamped down defensively, forcing New Orleans to attempt a barrage of three-pointers, most of which missed.

**76ers 106, Jazz 99:** Allen Iverson scored 10 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter, and Philadelphia won in Utah for the first time in four years.

Kenny Thomas added 30 points, scoring 18 during the Sixers' 39-point opening quarter, and Marc Jackson added 14 points, making all 10 of his free throws.

Philadelphia improved to 5-2 on an eight-game road trip, which ended Friday at Minnesota. The Sixers hadn't won at Utah since Dec. 26, 2000 and had dropped 15 of 15 on the road against the Jazz.

**Clippers 102, Trail Blazers 98:** At Los Angeles, Corey Maggette scored 15 of his 31 points in the final quarter and hit a key jumper with 20 seconds remaining.

Maggette's 18-footer from the left side off a pass from Rick Brunson gave the Clippers a four-point lead. Portland's Damon Stoudamire then missed a shot from Zach Randolph missed on a putback attempt.

The Clippers' Chris Kaman rebounded and passed to Brunson, who was intentionally fouled and made both free throws. Los Angeles allowed Jeff Poythress an unchallenged dunk as time expired — one of only three baskets by the Trail Blazers in the final 7:43.



Pittsburgh's Chevon Troutman reaches in to force a jump ball against Georgetown center Roy Hibbert in the second half on Wednesday.

## Georgetown hands Pitt another upset

By ALAN ROBINSON

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Jamie Dixon learned what longtime Pitt coach Paul Evans often discovered during the 1980s and 1990s: Sometimes having better talent isn't enough against a John Thompson-coached Georgetown team.

Brandon Bowman drove the lane for the go-ahead basket with 8.4 seconds remaining and No. 16 Pittsburgh then failed twice to get off a shot, falling 67-64 to the Hoyas on Wednesday night in the Panthers' second upset loss in as many games.

Pitt followed up a stunning 69-66 loss Sunday to Bucknell with one nearly as surprising — only its third in 46 home games since the Petersen Events Center opened for the 2002-03 season.

Georgetown (9-3) had lost eight consecutive Big East games dating last season, only to win its conference debut under new coach John Thompson III — the son of the Hoyas coach who was 24-10 against Pitt from 1982-99.

The Hoyas hit nine of 12 three-point attempts during the first half, when they once led 28-9, then ran their Princeton-style offense featuring numerous back-door cuts and quick passes to perfection in the second half.

"Obviously, I'm happy," Thompson said. "The ball bounced our way the last two minutes. It was a big win against a terrific team."

And a struggling Pitt team, too. The Panthers (10-2), who have

shared or won the last three Big East regular-season titles, lost two in a row for the first time since Notre Dame and Miami beat them during a four-day span in January 2002. They hadn't lost consecutive home games since Feb. 2001 losses to Notre Dame and Georgetown.

"This really hurts, to lose two straight games at home," said Chris Traft, who led Pitt to a 20-point game in the first half.

Ashtanti Cook hit four of Georgetown's 11 three-pointers and scored 23 points, including a free throw with 5.2 seconds left after Pitt's Chevon Troutman threw the ball away on a long pass.

"He kept us in it on some possessions where we could have crumbled," Thompson said. "He hit some shots to stop runs and keep us in the game."

Pitt got the ball back with a chance to tie at Georgetown's second free throw, but Antonio Graves was tied up near mid-court and the Panthers never got a shot off.

Bowman scored 18 and reserve Darrell Owens had 11 for the Hoyas, who were 16-point underdogs despite winning their previous four.

Pitt's Karl Krauser had 12 of his 15 points during a furious first-half flurry, but the Panthers couldn't hold on after turning the 19-point deficit into a 59-53 lead with five minutes remaining.

Pitt's last three opponents have shot 50 percent or better, something only one of Pitt's 36 opponents did last season.

# BC stuns UConn, off to best start in history

By DONNA TOMMELLE

The Associated Press



Boston College's Jared Dudley takes the ball away from Connecticut's Charley Villanueva in the second half Wednesday. Dudley paced the Eagles with 17 points.

HARTFORD, Conn. — Connecticut's last-est lopsided defeat of Jim Calhoun.

No. 25 Boston College (12-0, 1-0 Big East) outmuscled and outthrust the defending NCAA champs in a 75-70 win Wednesday night to jump out to their best start in school history.

"We're missing something," Calhoun said. "Leadership? Ability to listen? Sometimes kids come off championship seasons and a couple guys have answers. Unfortunately, we're not going to let people come and beat on us. We're going to put the beating on them," Smith said.

Craig Smith scored 16 points including the game-winning free throw with 35 seconds left to lift the Eagles to their third win in 12 meetings at the Hartford Civic Center and first since 1987.

"We did not look like a Connecticut team," Calhoun said. "We gave away that opportunity of having the crowd and allowed BC to take the game away from us." In foul trouble for most of the game, Smith made the most of his 16 minutes. The 250-pound forward scored 16 points for Boston College, which joins the Atlantic coast conference next year.

"We're not going to let people come and beat on us. We're going to put the beating on them," Smith said.

Jared Dudley led the Eagles with 17 points and was able to penetrate the lane time and again against the much bigger frontcourt of 10th-ranked UConn (8-2, 0-1).

Josh Boone dominated inside for UConn with 18 points and 15 boards, but it was the Eagles' frontcourt that prevailed.

Although the Huskies outrebounded BC 44-40, the Eagles scored 23 second-chance points on just 14 offensive rebounds.

"They're bigger, they're longer, they're athletic, but when it comes to banging I don't think they want any part of that," Smith said.

Neutralized in the first half by foul trouble, Smith played just six minutes and had two points. He made up for it in a hurry in the second. He scored 10 points in the first 5½ minutes to help the Eagles rally from a seven-point halftime deficit.

"We are a great team with [Smith], but we've played enough games without him to know how to play," BC coach Al Skinner said. "It was really a team effort."

The Eagles went up for good at 47-46 on a breakaway layup by Louis Hinnant and extended the lead to 10 over the next six minutes.

Boone brought the Huskies back, scoring seven points in a 13-6 run. UConn final-

ly caught up with 56 seconds left when Rashad Anderson hit two of three free throws to pull even at 70. Smith was fouled on the next possession, sinking both shots to ice the game.

Anderson, UConn's three-point specialist, finished with 15 points. "This was the start of league play, neighborhood brawls," Calhoun said. "I was excited about the game and I thought we were ready. We may have been ready physically, but we certainly weren't ready mentally."

UConn has dominated the series the last 17 years, winning 28 of 31 meetings, but it's unlikely they'll meet in the future because bad feelings exist over the Eagles' dealings with the ACC.

The fans clearly made their opinions known, holding up farewell signs such as "Betrayal College." Some in the sellout crowd of 16,294 sarcastically waved good riddance when the final buzzer sounded.

The Eagles didn't notice — they were too busy celebrating.

"One league game is just as important as another whether it's UConn, Syracuse or Rutgers," Skinner said. "Maybe in March it will have some significance, but right now you've got to win as many games as you possibly can."

# Healed Horton sparks Michigan in Big Ten opener

The Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Daniel Horton returned from a six-game absence and made an immediate impact for Michigan.

Returning to the court after missing six games with a knee injury, Horton scored 13 points, handed out two assists and provided key leadership.

Michigan helped the stretch to help Michigan beat No. 14 Iowa 65-63 Wednesday night.

Horton didn't start, but entered the game midway through the first half and promptly hit his first shot, a nifty turnaround jumper from the top of the key.

"I just wanted to come in and contribute, and I guess I came in and ... gave the team a shot in the arm, but that wasn't my goal," said Horton, who strained a knee in practice Dec. 5.

"It felt good to get a big win on the road and to get back out there and play. It's a good feeling right now for everybody."

The victory is the third straight for the Wolverines (9-5, 1-0 Big Ten) and snapped the Hawkeyes' nine-game winning streak.

The Wolverines led most of the way but had to fight off a second-half rally to beat Iowa for the third time in the last four games.

The Hawkeyes (12-2, 0-1) squandered several chances to tie or take the lead in the final minutes.

Pierre Pierce, who led Iowa with 15 points, was fouled by Dion Harris on a three-point attempt with 1.6 seconds to go, but missed the first of three free throws.

Greg Brunner, Adam Haluska and Jeff Horner each finished with 14, but the Hawkeyes struggled all night with shooting, rebounding and capitalizing on

Michigan's 25 turnovers.

"Obviously a frustrating way to start our Big Ten season," said Iowa coach Steve Alford. "It's my responsibility to make sure the team was ready, and they obviously weren't ready. I take full responsibility for that."

**No. 1 Illinois 84, Ohio State 65:** James Augustine tied his career high with 21 points as No. 1 Illinois all but abandoned its outside game for inside jumpers and layups in its Big Ten opener.

The Illini (15-0) did by only six at halftime, but used an 13-7 run at the start of the second half to build their lead to 12 with 14:14 to go. Ohio State (11-3) never got closer than seven after that and Illinois outscored the Buckeyes 19-8 in the final 10:20.

**No. 2 Kansas 65, Texas A&M 60:** Alex Galindo hit a tiebreaking three-pointer and Christian Moody and Aaron Miles each made two free throws in the final seconds to lift host Kansas.

The Aggies (11-1) came in as 17-point underdogs despite being one of the country's last unbeaten teams. But Kansas (10-0), without injured star Wayne Simien, struggled all night against the Aggies' aggressive, pressing defense. Texas A&M, which has lost 18 straight regular-season conference games, held the Jayhawks to 41 percent shooting.

**No. 5 Duke 59, Princeton 46:** At Durham, N.C., J.J. Redick made all 14 of his free throws and scored 21 points, helping the Duke Devils celebrate the 65th anniversary of Cameron Indoor Stadium in style.

Shelden Williams had 14 rebounds for the Duke Devils, who improved to 10-0 for the fourth time in five seasons.

**No. 6 Syracuse 79, St. John's 65:** At New York, Hakim Warrick scored 22 points and Gerry McNamara added 19 for Syracuse.

case, which had one of its best shooting games of the season.

The Orange (14-1) opened Big East play with their 36th consecutive win over an intrastate opponent.

**No. 8 Kentucky 79, South Carolina 75:** Kelenna Azubuike made four three-pointers and finished with 21 points as Kentucky held on against visiting South Carolina.

Chuck Hayes added 15 points and 10 rebounds for Kentucky (10-1), which won its league opener for the 17th time in 18 years.

South Carolina (8-4, 0-1) has lost three games to ranked teams this season, having also dropped four-point road decisions at Kansas and No. 16 Pittsburgh.

**Houston 70, No. 17 Louisville 67:** At Houston, Andre Owens scored 27 points, including a three-pointer for the go-ahead basket with 21 seconds left.

It was Houston's first win over a Top 25 team since beating then-No. 25 Tulsa on Dec. 4, 1996.

Freshman Juan Palacios had 20 points for Louisville, which lost to Houston for the first time in nine meetings.

**No. 18 Mississippi State 90, Auburn 53:** At Starkville, Miss., Lawrence Roberts had 19 points and 15 rebounds, and Mississippi State won the teams' Southeastern Conference opener.

Winsome Frazier and Jamall Edmonson each had 12 points for the Bulldogs (12-2), the defense in regular-season champions who shot 50 percent from the field to win their eighth straight over Auburn.

**Vanderbilt 70, No. 19 Alabama 56:** At Nashville, Tenn., Mario Moore shot 4-for-5 from three-point range and finished with 16 points.

Jason Carter also scored 16 points for the Commodores (10-4, 1-0 SEC), who won their sixth



Kansas forward Christian Moody, left, and Texas A&M's Chris Walker battle for a rebound during the first half Wednesday in Lawrence, Kan.

straight overall and beat the Crimson Tide (11-3, 0-1) for the fourth time in a row.

**No. 20 Michigan St 84, Penn St 58:** Alan Anderson scored 17 points and Shannon Brown added 16 to lead the visiting Spartans in the Big Ten opener for both teams.

Michigan State (9-2) shot 30-for-59 for the game and 66-for-117 from the free-throw line in the Spartans' sixth straight win.

**Villanova 84, No. 21 West Virginia 64:** At Villanova, Pa., Allan Ray scored 26 points and Mike Narvi added 18 to lead Villanova, snapping the Mountaineers' season-opening 10-game winning

streak.

Curtis Sumpter added 13 points and Randy Foye had 11 for the Wildcats (8-1), who won their seventh straight.

D'or Fisher scored 14 points and Tyrone Sully added 10 for the Mountaineers (10-1).

**No. 24 George Washington 71, La Salle 42:** At Washington, T.J. Thompson had 16 points, Pops Mensah-Bonsu had 12 points, 14 rebounds and four blocks, and Mike Hall had nine points and a career-high 17 rebounds for George Washington (9-2, 1-0 Atlantic 10), who took a double-digit lead 12 minutes in and was never threatened.



## SPORTS



Yankees, Randy Johnson reach preliminary agreement on two-year, \$32 million contract extension, Page 29

## Schottenheimer's nemesis

Playoffs have been unkind to Chargers' veteran coach

By BERNIE WILSON

The associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Marty Schottenheimer has never had a big problem getting his teams to the playoffs.

When they get there, bad things happen.

Yes, Schottenheimer is the winningest active coach with 177 regular-season wins in 18½ seasons with four franchises, including 12 with his surprising San Diego Chargers this season.

When the calendar changes to January, though, it isn't as pretty.

Schottenheimer is just 5-11 in the playoffs. He's been one-and-done seven times, including his past three trips. None of his 11 playoff teams have reached the Super Bowl.

His defeats have ranged from epic to mystifying.

Who could forget "The Drive" and "The Fumble," consecutive AFC championship games in which his Cleveland Browns came so close to a Super Bowl, only to be denied by John Elway and the Denver Broncos?

When Schottenheimer moved to Kansas City, he made it back to the AFC title game once — and lost. He also had two teams go 13-3 and lock up home-field advantage throughout the playoffs, only to be stunned by wild-card teams in the divisional round.

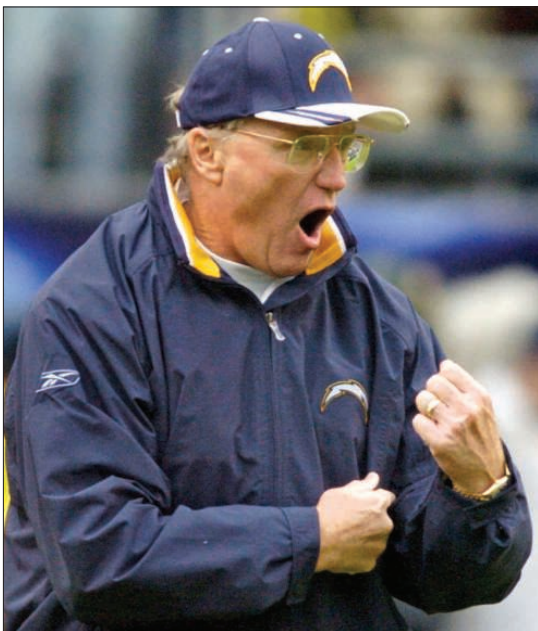
Now the AFC West champion Chargers get to leave their imprint on Schottenheimer's postseason record, for good or bad. They're favored over the visiting wild-card New York Jets on Saturday night.

"My approach is, you can't hide from it," Schottenheimer said. "It is what it is. We have not been nearly as effective in the playoffs as I would like to have been, but there again, there's no re-do's. And we lost some tough ones, some close ones."

His most momentous loss came on Jan. 11, 1987, in Cleveland.

With the Browns leading 20-13 and 5:32 left in regulation, Elway drove the Broncos 98 yards on 15 plays in 4:55 for the tying touchdown, then led them to the winning field goal in overtime.

"It was a terrific football game," Schottenheimer said.



Marty Schottenheimer, above, has the most regular-season victories among active NFL coaches with 177, but the San Diego Chargers' coach is just 5-11 in the postseason. His teams have been beaten in their first playoff game seven times, including the past three, and have never played in a Super Bowl.



Under Schottenheimer, the Kansas City Chiefs twice were the top seed in the AFC but lost both times in their first playoff games.



The play he remembers most is a third-and-18 just after Elway was sacked.

"He put Steve Watson in motion," Schottenheimer said. "He was in the shotgun. When the ball was snapped it was snapped early and it hit Steve Watson in the hip,

but it was a glancing blow and John had to turn and go field the snap.

"I thought shortly afterward that if Watson had been two inches closer to where he started rather than where he was going, the ball would have hit him dead in the hip and would have been rolling around on the ground on third down, and even if they got it, it would have been fourth down."

Instead, Elway completed a 20-yard pass to Mark Jackson to keep "The Drive" alive.

A year later, in Denver, 175-pound Broncos cornerback Jeremiah Castille stripped the ball from running back Earnest

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A breakdown of Saturday's NFL playoff matchups

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Suns back up win in Minnesota with a triumph in Houston

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No. 10 UConn stopped by undefeatable Boston College

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After 2-14 year, 49ers fire Erickson, Donahue Page 31

